

FULL
68 PAGES

AMAZING STORIES



NE
63

Sinister TALES 1-

STRIKE...
AND SHOW THEM MY
REVENGE!

YOU'LL THRILL TO...
"The
**WARLOCK'S
TREE!"**



How
Wired

HERE'S A STRANGE AND EXCITING STORY THAT SPANS THE CENTURIES.
YOU'LL GASP AT THE GRIM VENGEANCE OF...

The **WARLOCK'S TREE!**

STORY: KURATO
OSAKI

ART: COSTANZA-
HICKEY



FIRST, LET'S GET TO DEFINITIONS. IN
CASE YOU'RE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT
WARLOCKS...

FOR THOSE OF YOU
INTERESTED IN ANCIENT
SUPERSTITIONS, **WARLOCK**
WAS THE TERM GIVEN TO A
SORCERER OR WIZARD. SOME
APPLIED IT TO THOSE PRACTICING
MAGICAL ARTS. WITH THE
AID OF THE
DEVIL...



THERE ARE MANY IMPRESSIONS
OF WHAT A WARLOCK MAY HAVE
LOOKED LIKE...

BUT YOU'D NEVER DREAM IT COULD BE
SOMEONE LIKE THIS, THE YEAR IS 1527
... THE COUNTRY, POLAND ...



POOR OLD
FELLOW... HE'S BEEN
STARVED, BEATEN AND
NOW HE'S DYING. LIFE
HASN'T USED HIM WELL
... THERE SHOULD BE
SOMETHING BETTER
FOR HIM...

... AND I'M
GOING TO SEE
THAT HE GETS
IT!

WHAT'S HE
UP TO,
ANYWAY?



THIS WAS RANDEIO... HE WAS A
WARLOCK! AND IN RESPONSE TO HIS
STRANGE POWERS...

QUICKLY, A MOB FORMED, AND INSTEAD OF
USING MAGIC IN HIS DEFENSE, RANDEIO
FLED, FRIGHTENED BY THE CROWD'S HATRED...

THERE, THERE, BOY! YOU'RE
YOUNG AND HAPPY NOW,
AND THAT'S WHAT
I WANTED FOR
YOU...

IT'S
BLACK
MAGIC!

HE'S IN
LEAGUE
WITH SATAN!
HELP!
HELP!

WHINE...



GET HIM!
STRIKE HIM
DOWN!

I'VE GOT
TO... GET
AWAY...



IT ALL TOOK
PLACE NEAR
THE BORDER
OF THE SMALL
PRINCIPALITY
OF HYDANIA
... WHERE A
HUNTING PARTY
WITNESSED THE
ACTION...

HOW CRUEL THEY
ARE! HE IS BUT
ONE MAN AND
SORELY PRESSED
... LET'S TRY FOR
A RESCUE!



SCATTER,
YOU ROGUES!

LET'S SEE HOW BRAVE
YOU ARE AGAINST MEN
WHO CAN FIGHT
BACK!



THERE THEY
GO, THE
COWARDS.

THE ONE THEY
WERE CHASING
... WHAT'S HAPPENED
TO HIM?







AREN'T YOU AFRAID...
THAT YOU'LL CATCH
THE PLAGUE...?

SH-HHHH...



FROM HIS HAND FLOWED
MAGIC...AND IN ANGER
TO IT...

CR-RAK!



YOU CAUSED THAT
BY YOUR BLACK
ARTS! YOU MEAN
HARM TO MY
CHILD...

HARM?
LOOK!



MAMA...PAPA...I HAD
SUCH A BAD DREAM.
BUT NOW THAT I'M
AWAKE, I'M ALL
RIGHT!

MERCIFUL
HEAVENS!
SHE...SHE'S
CURED!



YOU HEALED HER, I
KNOW IT! I...I DIDN'T
DESERVE IT...AFTER ALL,
I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE
WHO HELPED RESCUE
YOU FROM
THAT
MOB...

I KNOW THAT
OTHERS OF YOUR
COUNTRYMEN HELPED
...I OWE GRATITUDE
TO THEM,
TOO.



WHAT...
WHAT'S HE
DOING?

I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S AS IF...HE'S
WILLING SOME-
THING TO
HAPPEN!



OUT OF NOWHERE, THERE APPEARED A SMALL,
LEAFED TWIG...

GO TO THE MIDDLE
OF THE TOWN SQUARE
AT ONCE...AND PLANT
THIS WITHIN THE
EARTH. GO...THERE
IS NO TIME TO
LOSE!



WHAT WOULD THE WARLOCK TREE DO? THE WIND PASSED THROUGH ITS BOUGHS, SPREAD TO EVERY CORNER OF MYDANIA. AND EVERYWHERE, DYING PLAGUE VICTIMS WERE AMAZINGLY CURED...



THE PEOPLE SOON LEARNED TO WHOM THEY OWED THEIR SALVATION...



WHEN WORD REACHED **BARON TRAPPELHAGEN**...

...AND ALL OF YOUR SUBJECTS ARE CHEERING THIS STRANGER. THEY'VE GIVEN HIM THEIR LOVE, THEIR HOMAGE...

THIS CAN'T BE ALLOWED! WHO KNOWS, MY SUBJECTS MAY BE MOVED TO CAST OFF MY RULE AND APPOINT THIS WARLOCK IN MY PLACE!

SO...THAT VERY NIGHT...





THE STROKE OF NOON---AND RANDERIO DIED---



FILLED WITH HORROR AND INDIGNATION, THE PEOPLE SURGED FORWARD...

STRIKE DOWN BARON TRAPPELHAGEN AND HIS FORCES! GET THEM!



WITH ONLY A FEW RETAINERS LEFT, BARON TRAPPELHAGEN WAS DRIVEN FROM HIS KINGDOM...



THEY'RE TOO MANY FOR US!

RUN, WHILE WE STILL HAVE OUR LIVES!



WE'LL SEEK REFUGE IN PRUSSIA...

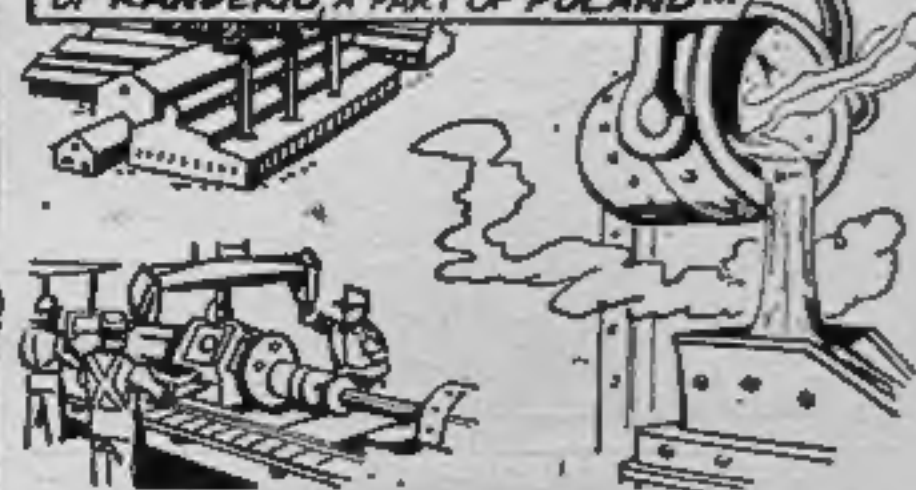


BEHIND THEM, THEY LEFT A FREE LAND...

THIS WAS THE MAN WHO SAVED US. TO HONOR HIS MEMORY, IT IS DECREED THAT HENCEFORTH, OUR LAND BE KNOWN AS RANDERIO!



THE YEARS PASSED...TURNED INTO CENTURIES. RANDERIO WAS NO LONGER A SIMPLE AGRICULTURAL PROVINCE. INSTEAD, IT WAS NOW AN INDUSTRIAL STATE...THE STATE OF RANDERIO, A PART OF POLAND...



AND NEARBY WAS A GREAT EUROPEAN NATION, NAZI GERMANY...RULED BY A FANATIC CRIMINAL...

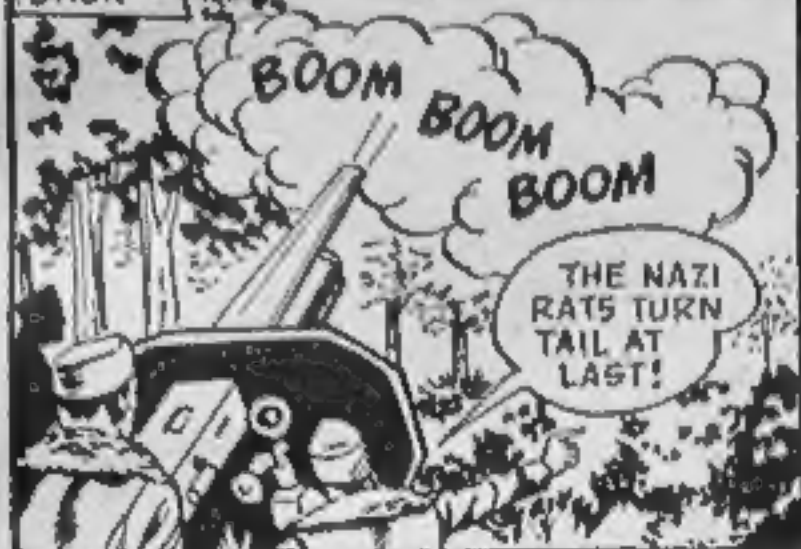
WE NEED **LEBENSRAUM**... A PLACE FOR OUR EXPANDING POPULATION! WHY SHOULD WORTHLESS NATIONS RETAIN WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS?



SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1939...AND THE NAZI HORDES HIT THE INVASION TRAIL, SPREADING OMINOUSLY OVER THE MAP OF EUROPE!



BUT ONLY RUSSIA WAS ABLE TO HURL THEM BACK...



DRIVEN OUT, THE NAZIS MADE THEIR WAY BACK TOWARDS GERMANY...



IN THEIR ANGER AT THE DEFEAT THEY HAD SUFFERED, THEY STRUCK OUT MURDEROUSLY AGAINST THE INNOCENT POPULACE OF RANDERIO...

LOOK AT THE FOOLS TRY TO ESCAPE!



IN DESPERATION, A FEW OF THE PEOPLE STRUCK BACK...



HE IS DEAD, HERR GENERAL. WHAT DO YOU WISH US TO DO?

DO? WE'LL MAKE THESE PEOPLE WISH THEY'D NEVER BEEN BORN! SEIZE A THOUSAND OF THEM AT ONCE!



IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE OF RANDERIO'S CAPITAL CITY, THE HOSTAGES WERE ASSEMBLED...

THE HOSTAGES ARE BEING GATHERED AND AT THE STROKE OF NOON THEY'LL BE EXECUTED ... EVERY MAN AND WOMAN OF THEM!



WE HAVE COME TO BEG FOR THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE, HERR GENERAL. AFTER ALL, THEY ARE INNOCENT...

YOU BEG FOR THE LIVES OF PEOPLE OF RANDERIO, DO YOU? IT'S JUST A MOMENT TO NOON, AND THEN I SAY GOOD RIDDANCE...





FATEFUL WORDS... WHEN HAD THEY BEEN HEARD BEFORE? LET'S TURN BACK TIME FOR A MOMENT... TO A DAY DISTANT CENTURIES AGO...



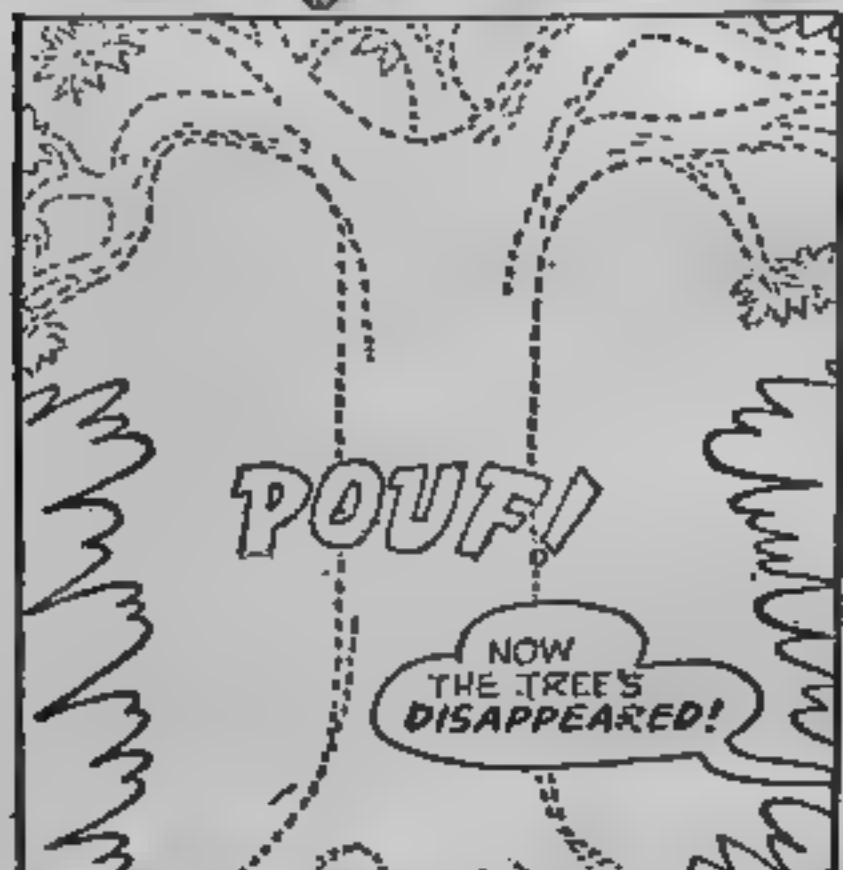


HELP!
H-HELP!



THE TREE'S BRANCHES
--- LIKE ARMS! THEY'VE
GOT THE GENERAL IN
THEIR GRIP...

AND THEY'RE
TIGHTENING...
TIGHTENING!



NOW
THE TREE'S
DISAPPEARED!

IN DESPAIR AT THEIR GENERAL'S DRAMATIC
DEATH, THE NAZIS SURRENDERED TO THE CLOSELY-
PURSUING RUSSIANS. AND WHEN ONLOOKERS
TRIED TO DESCRIBE WHAT HAD HAPPENED...

IT WAS THE **WARLOCK'S
TREE!** IT RETURNED... AND
IT BROUGHT REVENGE
TO THE ANCIENT WIZARD
WHO CREATED THE
TREE...

NONSENSE!
I'VE HEARD
THAT OLD
STORY...



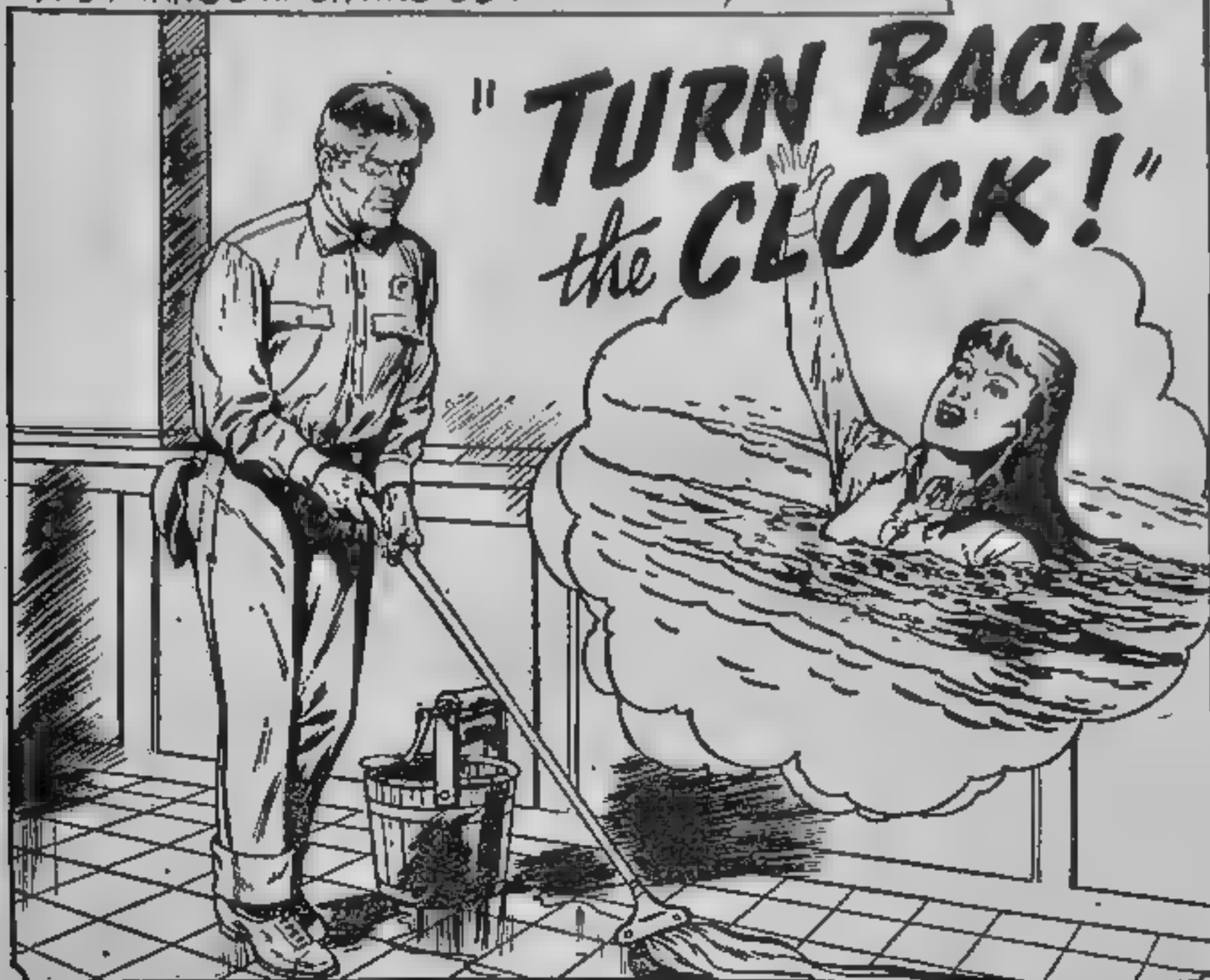
...BUT YOU'VE GOT TO
REMEMBER THAT HIS CURSE
WAS DIRECTED AGAINST THE
CRUEL RULER WHO HAD DOOMED
HIM CENTURIES AGO, NOT A
MODERN NAZI
GENERAL!



BUT HOW FORTUNATE IT
IS THAT **GENERAL TRAPPELNAGEN**
IS DEAD... AS HE DESERVED!

THE
END.

EVER WISH YOU COULD LIVE LIFE OVER? IMPOSSIBLE, YOU SAY
 ...BUT HERE'S A STORY THAT MAY MAKE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
 A STRANGE HAUNTING SORT OF STORY, CALLED...



"TURN BACK the CLOCK!"

PEOPLE THOUGHT IT WOULD
 BE THE GREATEST MATCH THAT
 MECHANICTOWN HAD EVER KNOWN--

THERE GOES MARCIA ENNIS--WITH
 RALPH DARNEL! HE'LL SURE MAKE
 A GREAT CATCH FOR HER!



SURE WILL! OWNER
 OF A GROWING SHOE
 PLANT--YEP, THERE
 OUGHT TO BE
 WEDDING
 BELLS
 SOON!

I DUNNO...
 MARCIA'S
 BEEN RIGHT
 FOND OF
 STANLEY DARNEL

EVER SINCE
 THEY WERE
 KIDS!

YOU'RE CRAZY!
 WHEN A GAL CAN
 HAVE THE REAL
 MONEY MAN, WHY
 PICK ON HIS POOR
 COUSIN?



STANLEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN
 THE POOR COUSIN-- BUT
 YOU'D NEVER KNOW IT WHEN
 HE WAS WITH MARCIA--

A NIGHT LIKE THIS
 AND YOU--IT MAKES
 ME FEEL LIKE THE
 RICHEST GUY IN
 THE WORLD!



CAREFUL ABOUT
 THAT KIND OF
 TALK--IT MIGHT
 BE CATCHING!

BUT RALPH DARNEL COULDN'T SEE THE DANGER SIGNALS --

I AM IDOLIZING MY BEST! MAYBE IT'S A GOOD TIME TO CALL ON MARCIA AND HAVE HER SET A DATE FOR OUR WEDDING! AH, YES... SHE'S A LUCKY GIRL --

YOU'RE A FINE FIGURE OF A MAN, MR. DARNEL!

MAYBE IT'S A GOOD TIME TO CALL ON MARCIA AND HAVE HER SET A DATE FOR OUR WEDDING! AH, YES... SHE'S A LUCKY GIRL --

MARCIA FELT SHE WAS A LUCKY GIRL, TOO -- BUT FOR DIFFERENT REASONS

WHAT THE...! MARCIA! STANLEY! WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



IT WAS A STORMY SCENE -- BUT STANLEY FACED HIS WEALTHY COUSIN UNBLINCHINGLY --

YOUR MONEY DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN BUY MARCIA, YOU KNOW! IT SO HAPPENS THAT WE'RE IN LOVE -- AND WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

YOU'RE NO GOOD! YOU'LL ONLY BRING HER TRAGEDY -- BECAUSE YOU'RE A WEAKLING!

WATCH! -- SEE IF IT DOESN'T TURN OUT LIKE I SAY! AND SO HELP ME -- I'LL GET EVEN WITH YOU IF IT TAKES ME THE REST OF MY LIFE!

BUT THERE WERE NO WORRIES -- NOT AS THEY WENT THROUGH LIFE'S HAPPIEST EVENT --



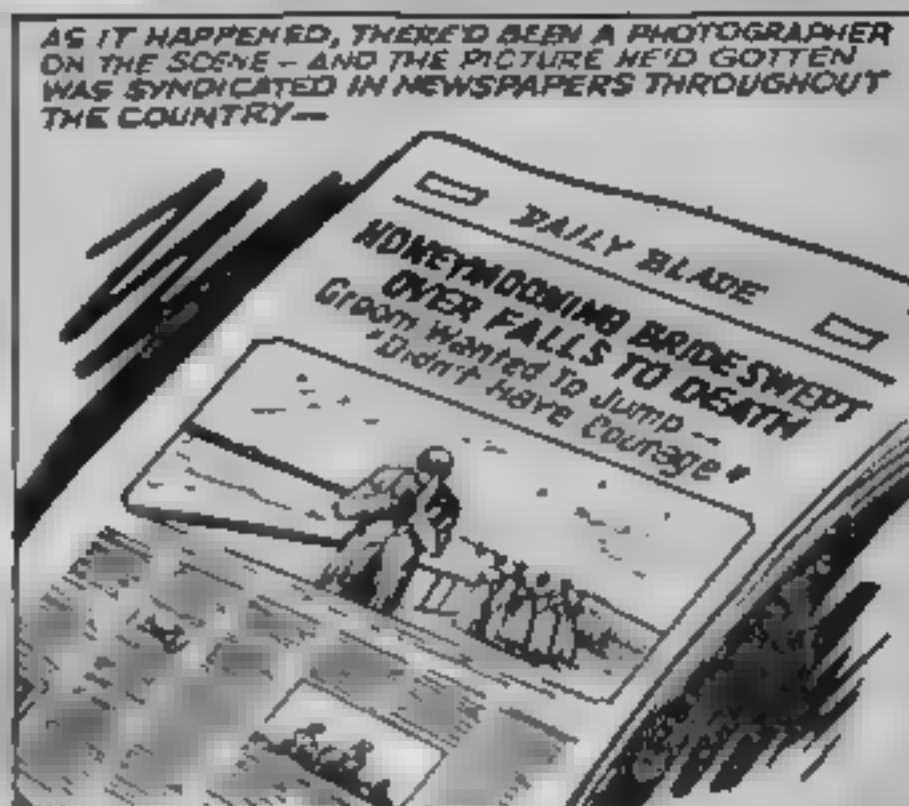
THEN -- A NIAGARA HONEYMOON --

WE'RE ACTUALLY MARRIED! ISN'T IT HARD TO BELIEVE?

SURE IS, MARCIA! I'VE GOT TO KEEP PINCHING MYSELF! I -- I HOPE YOU'LL NEVER BE SORRY FOR IT -- THE WAY RALPH SAID!

THE NERVE OF HIM, CALLING YOU A WEAKLING -- MY BRAVE, STRONG HUSBAND! ONE THING I KNOW -- I CAN ALWAYS DEPEND ON YOU --





HIS COURSE WAS DOWNWARD,
EVER DOWNWARD—

SO TIRED... CAN'T FIND A
JOB ANYWHERE. MAYBE
I'D BETTER SIT DOWN--
REST--



BUT THERE WASN'T ANY
REST FOR HIM --FOR WHEN--
EVER SLEEP CAME,
MOMENTARILY--



FINALLY, IN DESPAIR, HE RETURNED TO
MECHANICTOWN. HE HAD SUNN SO LOW
THAT HE HAD TO CAST HIMSELF UPON
THE MERCY OF HIS ONLY LIVING
RELATIVE --RALPH--

SO YOU'VE COME TO
ME--AFTER WHAT YOU
DID! MARCIA WOULD
BE ALIVE IF SHE'D
MARRIED ME -- BUT
YOU BUTTED IN!

DON'T I --
KNOW IT?



BUT NOW YOU NEED A JOB TO KEEP ALIVE,
DO YOU? WELL, MAYBE I'LL BE CHARITABLE
AND HELP YOU OUT AFTER ALL. IT SO
HAPPENS I DO HAVE A JOB --

THANK YOU,
RALPH--
THANK YOU!



BUT THE JOB TURNED OUT TO BE--

I MUSTN'T RESENT
IT -- I DESERVE IT!
BESIDES -- NOBODY
ELSE WOULD
KEEP ME --



RALPH DIDN'T MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR HIM--
FOR THIS WAS HIS REVENGE--

WHY DON'T YOU EVER RESENT
ME, FIGHT BACK? IT'S
BECAUSE YOU'RE A
COWARD, A WEAKLING!

IT'S THE TRUTH!
HOW CAN I
RESENT IT? I-- I
SORT OF WELCOME
WHAT YOU SAY TO ME
--IT'S LITTLE ENOUGH,
AFTER WHAT
I'VE DONE!



WHEN IT ALL HAPPENED--WITH MARCIA--THE
NEWSPAPERS RAN A PICTURE OF ME, TURNING
ASIDE IN COWARDICE AS MY WIFE DIED. I'VE
HAD THAT PICTURE ENLARGED AND IT'S
HANGING IN MY ROOM WHERE I CAN
ALWAYS SEE IT! THAT'S PUNISHMENT--
NOT THE LITTLE THINGS YOU
CAN DO TO ME!





I'D GIVE MY LIFE IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN - AND COULD REVERSE THINGS -

ROT! EVEN IF TIME COULD BE TURNED BACK YOU'D DO THE SAME THING - YOU'D BE A COWARD ALL OVER AGAIN!



THAT NIGHT WHEN HE WENT TO SLEEP, THE DREAM THAT CONSTANTLY HAUNTED HIM CHANGED. NOW -

YOU KILLED ME COWARD! I HATE YOU - HATE YOU!



HE AWOKES, MISERABLE - ROSE AND STARED AT THE PICTURE -

OH, MARCIA, MARCIA - I MEANT WHAT I SAID! I'D GIVE MY LIFE IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER AGAIN AND COULD ACT DIFFERENTLY -

SUDDENLY, A GREAT BELL SEEMED TO TOLL WITHIN HIS HEAD! AN OVERPOWERING DIZZINESS SEIZED HIM -



OH-HHH...



ICY FINGERS OF BLACK SEEMED TO REACH FOR HIM - AND HE WAS FALLING, FALLING INTO A DARK, WHIRLING MAELSTROM -



ALL AT ONCE, THE DIZZINESS DEPARTED, HIS SIGHT CLEARED. WHY, HE WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE - HE EVEN FELT DIFFERENT! AND THEN HIS EYES WIDENED IN HORROR - BECAUSE - HE WAS BACK THERE AGAIN! BACK IN THE PAST - BACK TO THAT FATAL MOMENT -

THERE ISN'T A CHANCE! NOT IN THAT CURRENT - SHE'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE FALLS!

I-I WANT TO JUMP, BUT I CAN'T! LORD HELP ME, I CAN'T!



AND OUT THERE, IN THE SWIRLING CURRENTS -

HELP! STAN - STANLEY - H-HELP ME -

BEFORE HIM NOW ROSE THE VISION OF HIS COUSIN'S SNEERING FACE, THE SOUND OF HIS WORDS --

EVEN IF TIME COULD BE TURNED BACK, YOU'D DO THE SAME THING -- YOU'D BE A COWARD ALL OVER AGAIN!



NO --- NO ---



STANLEY WAS FIGHTING AGAINST THE PAST, AGAINST THE COWARDICE THAT HAD WRECKED HIS LIFE! IT WAS A FIGHT HE COULDN'T WIN -- AND YET --

I'M COMING, DARLING -- I'M COMING!



DESPERATE STROKES BROUGHT HIM TO HER SIDE, EVEN AS THE ROAR OF THE FALLS SOUNDED CLOSER --

HOLD ON, DARLING! I'LL GRAB THAT ROCK AND THEY'LL THROW US A ROPE --



AND FINALLY -- MIRACLE OF MIRACLES --

WHAT A HERO! I NEVER SAW SUCH RAW COURAGE IN MY LIFE!

IT TOOK GUTS TO SAVE HER LIFE THAT WAY!



WHO KNOWS WHAT STRANGE THINGS CAN BE?

PERHAPS THERE ARE MANY REALITIES -- AND SOMEWHERE, IN SOME OTHER PLANE OR DIMENSION, STANLEY AND MARCIA ARE LIVING OUT A HAPPY LIFE!

BUT NEXT MORNING -- IN THE LIFE WE KNOW --

HE'S DEAD, ALL RIGHT, MR. DARNEL! WE CALLED YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE HIS ONLY RELATIVE! WE FOUND HIM LYING LIKE THIS UNDER THE PICTURE --

THE PICTURE -- OH, YEE! I WANT THAT PICTURE -- AS A SORT OF -- WELL -- REMINDER OF THE PAST! AS HIS ONLY SURVIVING KIN, I'M ENTITLED TO IT!

BUT NOW THERE WAS SOMETHING -- DIFFERENT ABOUT THAT PICTURE! WHERE HAD THE COWARDLY STANLEY GONE? IN HIS PLACE --



THE END

IT WAS A TREMENDOUS DAY FOR THE GREEN SOX, WHEN BASEBALL SCOUT MIKE GLOANE MADE THE DISCOVERY! THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THE WAY THAT FARM BOY COULD THROW A ROCK OR A BASEBALL! BUT THE MOST AMAZING DISCOVERY OF ALL WAS ONE THAT MIKE MADE TOO LATE!

THE DISCOVERY!



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MAYBE HE WAS DREAMING, BUT MIKE WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES! HE GOT OVER TO ERNIE WATKINS AS FAST AS HE COULD...

BOY, I'VE BEEN WATCHIN' YOU! THINK YOU COULD THROW A BASEBALL THE WAY YOU THROW A STONE?

SURE, MISTER! I CAN THROW ANYTHING AND HIT THAT OLD TARGET EVERY TIME, RIGHT SMACK ON THE BULL'S-EYE!

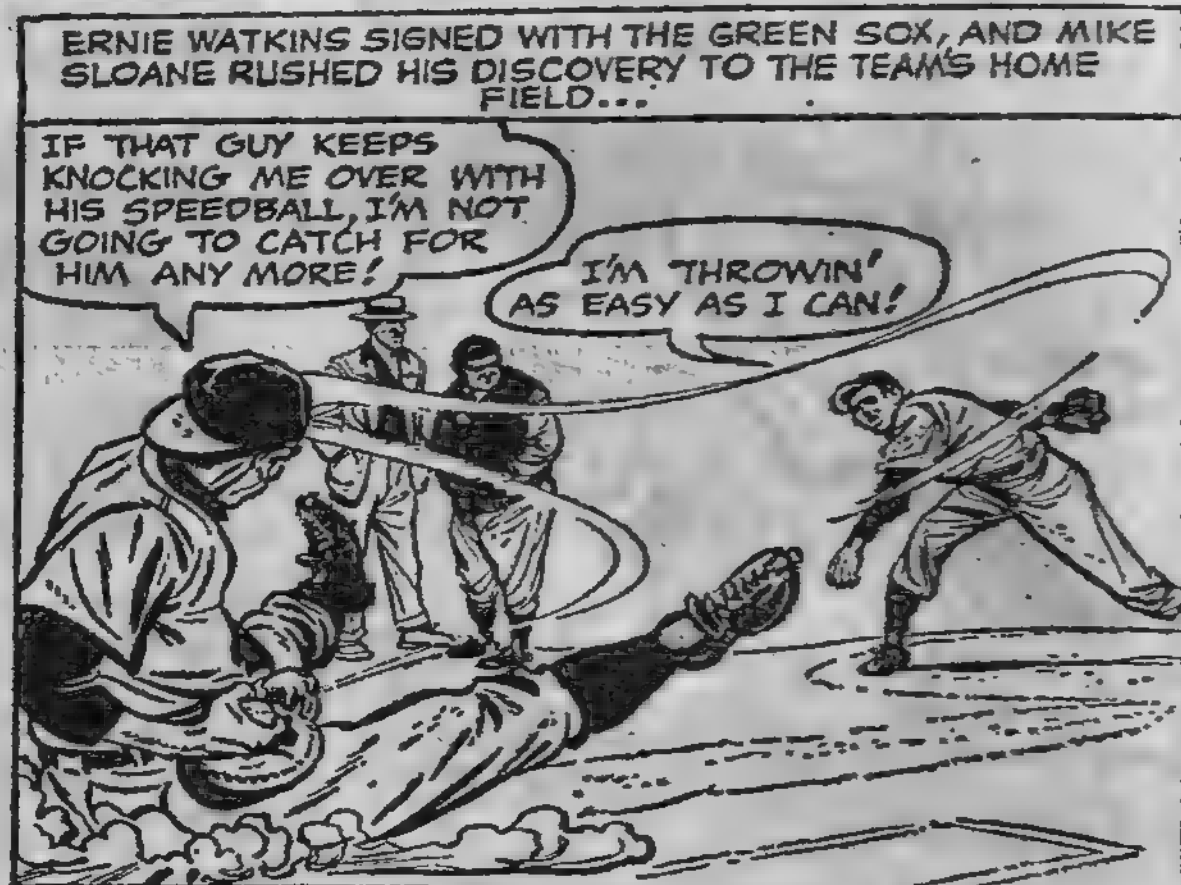


ERNIE ACCEPTED A BASEBALL FROM THE SCOUT, AND WITH VERY EASY, GRACEFUL MOTIONS, HE HURLED IT!

BROTHER, I SEE... BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT! CAN YOU THROW HARDER THAN THAT?

SEE?





THE GREEN SOX WRAPPED UP THE PENNANT WITHOUT ERNIE'S HELP! JIM HANDLEY KEPT HIM WARMING THE BENCH FOR THREE WEEKS...

CAN'T I EVER GIT TO PLAY, MR. HANDLEY? THE OTHER FELLERS ARE HAVIN' ALL THE FUN!

I'M SAVIN' YOU, TILL WE GO INTO THE SERIES AGAINST THE EAGLES, ERNIE! THAT'S JUST A FEW DAYS OFF!



EVEN WHEN THE SERIES CAME, AND SIX GAMES HAD BEEN PLAYED...

MR. HANDLEY, YOU AREN'T KEEPIN' YOUR PROMISE!

BUT I WILL, ERNIE! WE'VE GOT THEM TIED, THREE GAMES EACH! THIS IS THE PAYOFF, KID, AND I'M GOING TO SEND YOU IN THERE WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS!



IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE NINTH INNING! THE EAGLES WENT TO BAT WITH THE SCORE 3 TO 2 IN THEIR FAVOR...

NOW, ERNIE, GO IN THERE AND PITCH LIKE YOU'VE NEVER PITCHED BEFORE!

YOU BET I WILL, MR. HANDLEY!

A HUSH FELL OVER THE JAMMED STADIUM WITH ERNIE'S VERY FIRST PITCH! THE ONLY SOUND WAS FROM THE BALL WALLOPING INTO MURPHY'S MITT...

WHAT GOES HERE? THAT WATKINS GUY CAN'T BE FOR REAL!

YOU'LL NEVER HIT THE KID! YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP RIGHT NOW!



THERE WAS NO SOUND FROM THE STUNNED SPECTATORS, AS THE FIRST BATTER WENT DOWN, ONE, TWO, THREE! THEN CHUCK ANDERSON WENT TO THE PLATE...

STRIKE THREE! YOU'RE OUT!

I NEVER EVEN GOT A CHANCE TO SWING!



STILL THE THROG SAT IN AWED SILENCE...

THE BOY CLICKS OFF LIKE A TIME-PIECE! LOOK AT HIM, JIM.. HE'S GOT TWO STRIKES ON MONK WILLARO!

MONK'S SWINGIN'... AFTER MURPHY GOT THE BALL IN HIS MITT! ERNIE'S GOT THE SIDE OUT! NOW WE GO TO BAT!



THE GREEN SOX TOOK THEIR TURN AT BAT IN THE LAST HALF OF THE NINTH, AND THE SCORE WAS STILL 3 TO 2 AGAINST THEM! THE FIRST TWO MEN HIT FLY BALLS TO THE INFELD...

YOU PLAYED IT DUMB, HANDLEY! YOU SHOULD'VE LET THE KID PITCH THE WHOLE GAME! THEN THE EAGLES WOULDN'T HAVE ANY RUNS!

QUIET! WEBER'S UP! MAYBE HE'LL GET ON!



A HIT! WEBER'S GOT A SINGLE! FOGARTY, GET IN THERE AND PINCH-HIT FOR WATKINS!



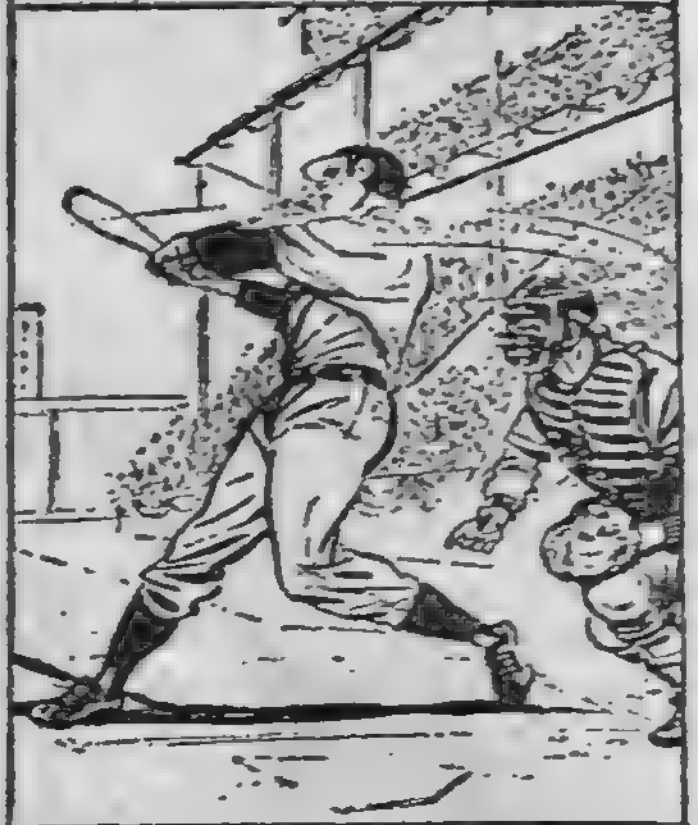
ERNIE WATKINS ROSE AT ONCE TO PROTEST...

BUT, ERNIE, THERE'S A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE FOGARTY WILL HIT! THE WHOLE WORLD SERIES HANGS ON THAT CHANCE!

I KNOW I'LL HIT, MR. HANDLEY! I'VE MADE UP MY MIND TO HIT! IF ERNIE'S MADE UP HIS MIND, JIM, YOU'D BETTER LET HIM!



THE CROWD ROARED, AS ERNIE WENT TO THE PLATE! HE CONNECTED WITH THE FIRST BALL, AND THEY WENT WILD...



IT HIT THE LEFT FIELD WALL! IT'S A SURE INSIDE-THE-PARK HOMER!

ERNIE! FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, RUN! RUN! RUN! CAN'T HEAR?



PHIL WEBER SCORED AHEAD OF THE THROW, BUT THE EAGLE'S CATCHER PUT THE BALL ON ERNIE WATKINS...

YOU FOOL! YOU'RE OUT! THE RUN DOESN'T COUNT! THE GAME IS OVER, AND WE LOSE! WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN?

WHAT'D YOU SAY, MR. HANDLEY? THE CROWD'S MAKIN' SO MUCH NOISE I CAN'T HEAR YOU!



I SAID, WHY DIDN'T YOU RUN? YOU COST US THE SERIES! WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO PLAY BASEBALL?

OH... I NEVER LEARNED, MR. HANDLEY...



IN FACT, I'VE NEVER PLAYED BASEBALL IN MY LIFE BEFORE THIS! I ONLY LEARNED HOW TO PITCH THE BALL!



OLD LEGIONNAIRE, HENRI DUVAL, DID NOT WANT TO FADE AWAY IN RETIREMENT TO FRANCE AND A PENSION... NOT WHILE THERE STILL LURKED

DANGER IN THE DESERT!



THE RECRUITS OTTO! A STRIKE IN THE SUN AND THEY ARE READY TO FIGHT! HOW CAN ONE OF THEM TAKE MY PLACE?

THEY ARE YOUNG, HENRI! THE YOUNG CAN LEARN! YOU ARE OLD! THE OLD CAN ONLY DIE! IT IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD!

A MYSTERY TALE TO HOLD YOU BREATHLESS!

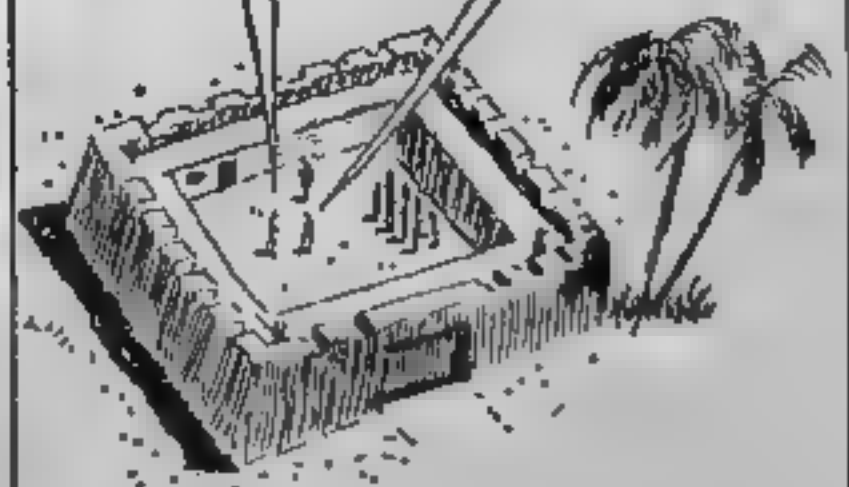
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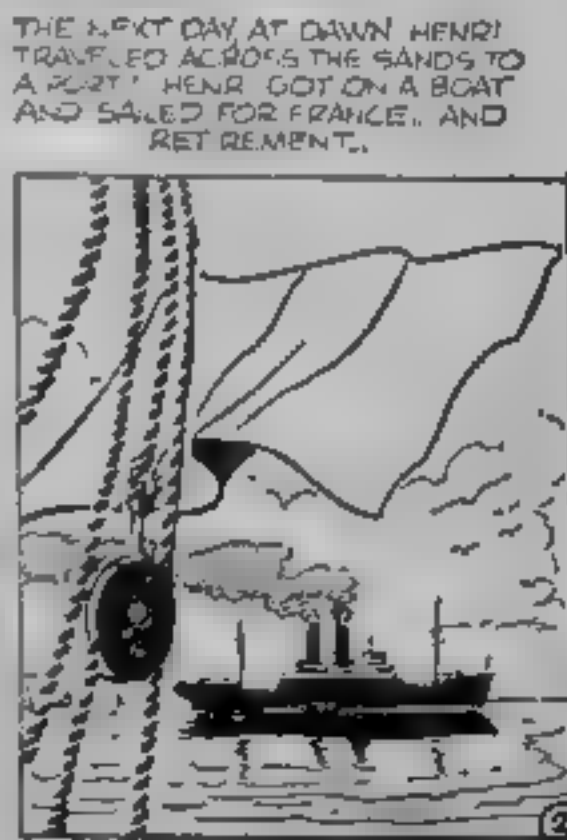
DO YOU THINK I'M AFRAID TO DIE? HAS NOT DEATH BEEN MY COMPANION THESE FORTY YEARS IN THE LEGION?

ACH! HENRI, YOU FEAR NOTHING! BUT DEAD MEN CANNOT DEFEND THIS OUTPOST WHEN EL GAZZAR ATTACKS, EH?

TRUE, OTTO! BUT CAN THESE CHILDREN STAND UP AGAINST EL GAZZAR'S ASSASSINS? HAH! AND THEY INSIST ON SENDING ME BACK TO FRANCE ON PENSION!

YOU ARE NOT IN FRANCE YET HENRI! HERE COMES THE COLONEL! PERHAPS HE HAS GOOD NEWS!





WEEKS PASSED AND UNDER THE RIGGED DISCIPLINE OF THE LEGION THE RECRUITS STARTED TO TAKE SHAPE



AND IN FRANCE, HENRI DUVAL TRIED TO ADJUST HIMSELF TO RETIREMENT.

THAT NIGHT A STRANGE FEELING TROUBLED HENRI.



OLD HENRI HAD CAUSE TO BE WORRIED! FOR BACK AT THE FORT, A SENTRY NODDED AND DOZED...



A FIGURE MOVED ON THE SANDS... THEN ANOTHER AND YET ANOTHER... THE DESERT WAS ALIVE WITH EL GAZZAR'S MEN!



FAR AWAY IN THE LITTLE FRENCH VILLAGE, OLD HENRI MUTTERED IN HIS SLEEP, AS IF HE KNEW OF THE UPENDING DISASTER...

EL GAZZAR WAS READY TO STRIKE...



SUDDENLY, THE SILENCE OF THE DESERT WAS SHATTERED BY A LOUD, INSISTENT KNOCKING AT THE FORT'S GATE, AND...



THE DESERT BRIGANDS MELTED INTO THE NIGHT UNDER A HAIL OF FIRE... AND THE COLONEL THREW OPEN THE GATE...



AND BACK IN FRANCE...



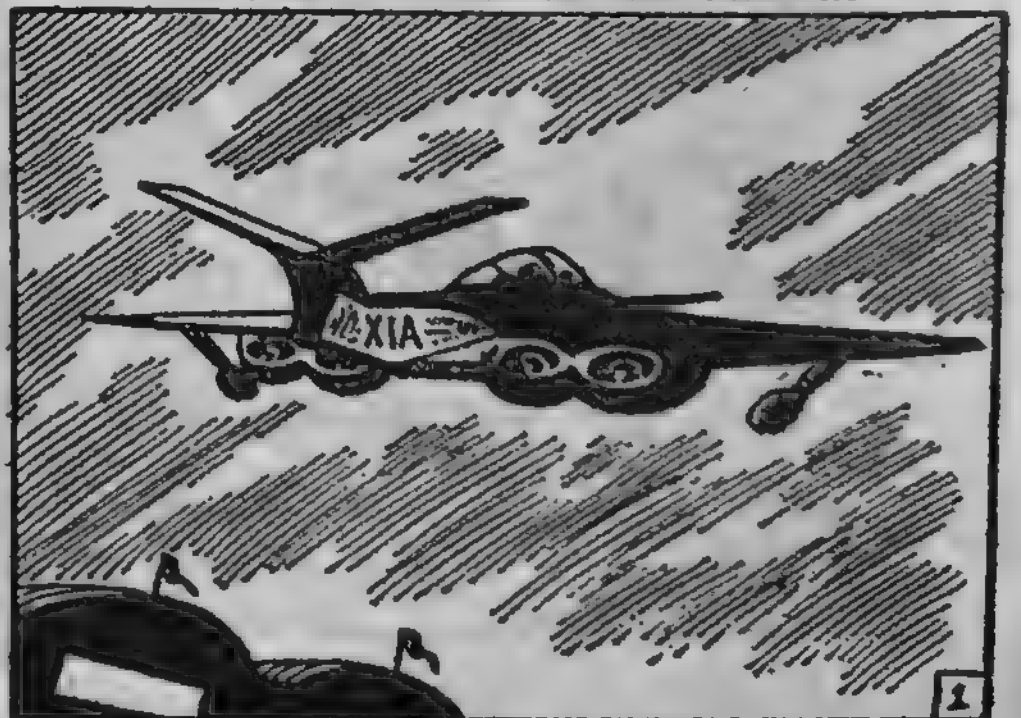
EVERY NATION WAS ALERTED, MOBILIZED TO BATTLE AN INVISIBLE ENEMY THAT WAS THREATENING TO BRING...

DANGER FROM NOWHERE!

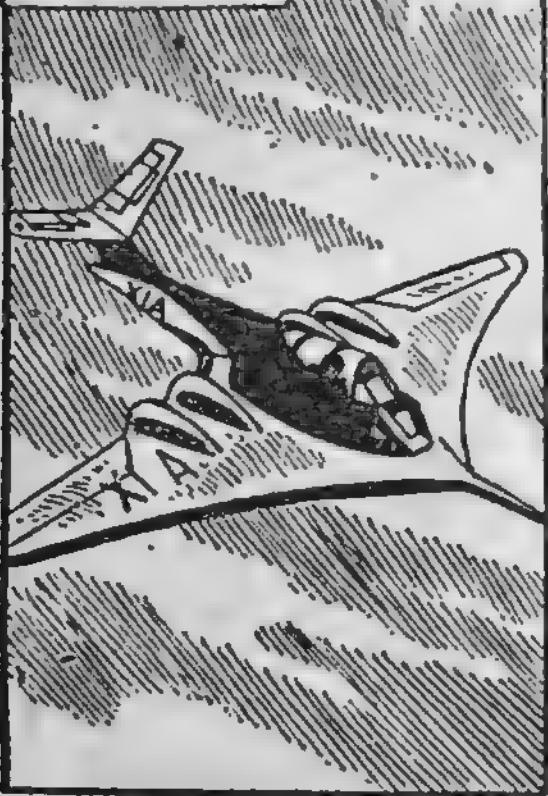


IT WAS JUST A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO THAT TEST PILOTS JEFF DUNN AND KIP SANFORD WERE HAVING THEIR ARGUMENT...

ANY OTHER PROTEST KIP SANFORD MAY HAVE UTTERED WAS DROWNED OUT BY THE ROAR OF THE JET, AS IT STREAKED INTO SPACE...

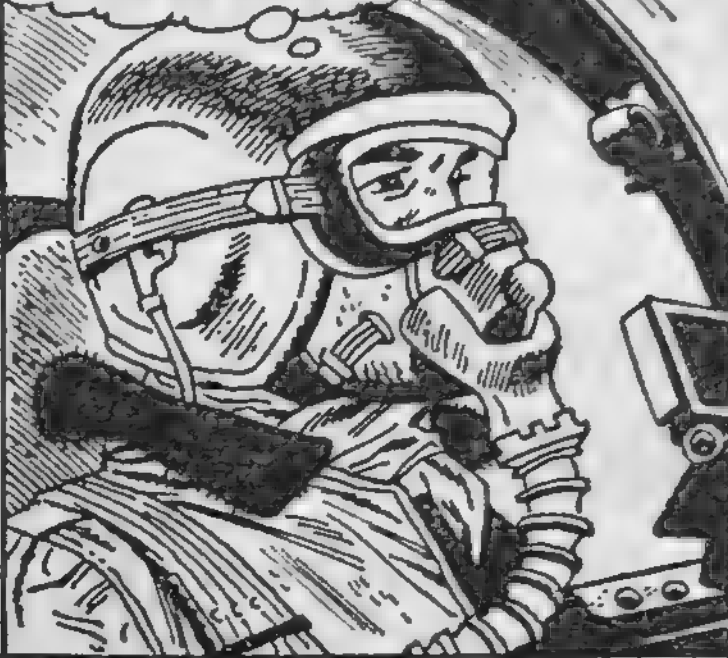


IN THE COCKPIT, JEFF DUNN WAS TENSE...



BUT SOON HE RELAXED...

EIGHT HUNDRED AND TEN MPH! I'VE MADE HISTORY! I'VE BROKEN THROUGH THE SOUND BARRIER!



FASTER, FASTER! THE PLANE'S TACHOMETER SHOWED ITS LIMIT OF TWO THOUSAND... BUT THE TEST PILOT KNEW HE WAS EXCEEDING THIS TREMENDOUS SPEED! THEN, SUDDENLY...

AND THEN, YES, SIR! THE TIME IS RIPE! MY FRIEND, AFTER WE'VE CONQUERED ENGLAND, WE'LL INVADE THE UNITED STATES, CANADA...



VOICES IN SPACE! I WAS GOING SO FAST, THAT I CAUGHT UP WITH VOICES THAT SPOKE BEFORE I GOT HERE... PROBABLY FROM A PASSING AIR-LINER! I'VE GOT TO REPORT THIS TO THE GENERAL!



TEN MINUTES LATER...

THE VOICES WERE DEFINITELY FOREIGN!

IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! WE AND OUR ALLIES HAD BETTER MOBILIZE AT ONCE! BUT WE'LL NEED PROOF!



I HEARD THOSE VOICES AS CLEARLY AS I HEAR YOURS, SIR!

I BELIEVE YOU, DUNN, BUT WHO ELSE WILL? WAIT, I'VE GOT IT... A TAPE RECORDER!



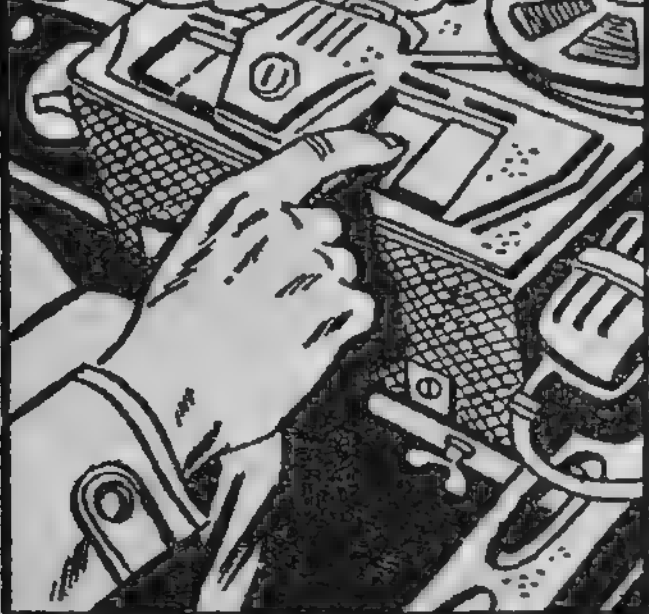
IF YOU CAN RECORD THOSE VOICES ON TAPE, I THINK I CAN CONVINCE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS NATIONS THAT WE'RE ALL THREATENED WITH INVASION BY SOME FOREIGN POWER!

AN EXCELLENT IDEA, GENERAL BAXTER!



JEFF DUNN TOOK OFF AGAIN A HALF-HOUR LATER, HEADED IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS BEFORE...

I'M PASSING THE TWO THOUSAND MPH MARK... TIME TO START THE TAPE ROLLING!



AND THEN, MY FRIEND, AFTER WE'VE CONQUERED ENGLAND, WE'LL INVADE THE UNITED STATES, CANADA...

YES, SIR! THE TIME IS RIPE! JUST IN TIME!



THE JET PILOT PLAYED BACK THE TAPE TO MAKE SURE HE'D CAUGHT THE VOICES...

...THE TIME IS RIPE! THIS WILL GIVE THEM THE PROOF THEY NEED!



SOON...

YES, SIR! THE TIME IS RIPE!

THIS IS URGENT, DUNN! I WANT YOU TO FLY ME TO WASHINGTON AT ONCE!



THAT NIGHT, IN WASHINGTON, D.C....

AND THEN, MY FRIEND, AFTER WE'VE CONQUERED ENGLAND...

AMAZING!

ASTONISHING!



VERY INTERESTING, GENTLEMEN, BUT YOU CAN HARDLY EXPECT US TO ORDER A MOBILIZATION ON THE STRENGTH OF A COUPLE OF VOICES ON A PIECE OF TAPE!

SIR, A FRESH TAPE WAS PUT ON THAT MACHINE! I PERSONALLY ACCOMPANIED MR. DUNN TO HIS SHIP AND WATCHED HIM TAKE OFF! THIS DANGER IS REAL, SIR!



I HAVE THE GREATEST CONFIDENCE IN GENERAL BAXTER'S INTEGRITY! OFFICIALLY, OF COURSE, WE DON'T KNOW WHO THIS ENEMY IS, BUT I'M SURE WE ALL HAVE OUR SUSPICIONS...

NATURALLY, MONSIEUR! WE MUST ORDER TOTAL MOBILIZATION! AT ONCE!



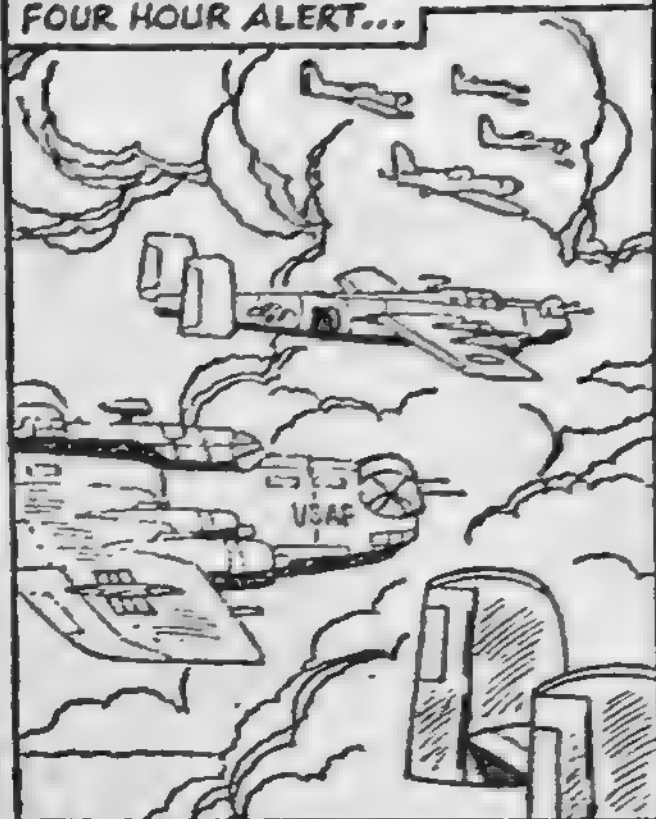
MORNING PAPERS CARRIED THE NEWS...

EXTRA! EXTRA! INVASION! THREATENED! ...GASP... ARE WE GOING TO BE INVADED? READ ALL ABOUT IT!

EXTRA
JET PILOT REVEALS
PLOT TO INVADE ALL
NATIONS!!

TOTAL MOBILIZATION
ORDERED IMMEDIATELY
VOICES OF
ENEMY PICKED
UP ON TAPE
RECORDER.

GENERAL BAXTER ORDERED ALL
MILITARY PLANES ON A TWENTY-
FOUR HOUR ALERT...



WITHIN A WEEK, THE ALLIED NATIONS WERE READY TO STAND OFF THE ENEMY...



BUT AFTER A MONTH HAD PASSED...

THE MOBILIZATION IS COSTING US
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS! OUR
ALLIES ARE BEGINNING TO
COMPLAIN! IF THERE'S TO BE
AN INVASION, *WHEN*
WILL IT COME... AND
BY *WHOM*?

I'M AFRAID
WE CAN'T
KNOW THAT
UNTIL THE
INVASION
DOES COME,
SIR, UNLESS...

...UNLESS WE CAN GET *MOTION PICTURES*
OF THE ENEMY! WE'LL ATTACH A CAMERA TO
DUNN'S JET PLANE! WE GOT SOUND...
PERHAPS WE CAN GET PICTURES!

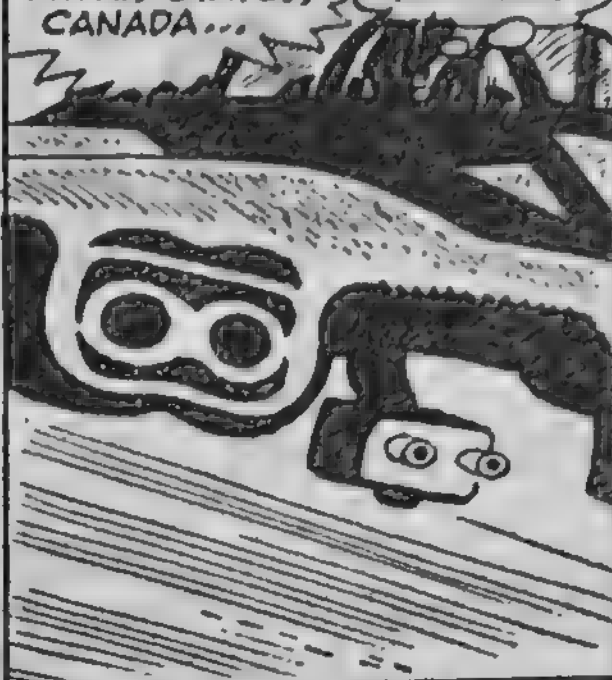


THAT SAME DAY...



...AFTER WE'VE CONQUERED ENGLAND, WE'LL INVADE THE UNITED STATES, CANADA...

NOW...THE SWITCH TO START THE CAMERAS ROLLING!



BACK WE GO...AND IF I CAUGHT THOSE PLOTTERS ON FILM OR EVEN THE AIRLINER THEY WERE TRAVELING IN, THAT OUGHT TO BE PROOF ENOUGH FOR ANY-BODY!



THE FILMS WERE RUSHED TO A LAB FOR DEVELOPING... EVEN BEFORE THEY WERE READY, DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ALLIED NATIONS WERE WAITING IN A PROJECTION ROOM...

GENTLEMEN, THE FILMS HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE ABOUT TO BE SHOWN!

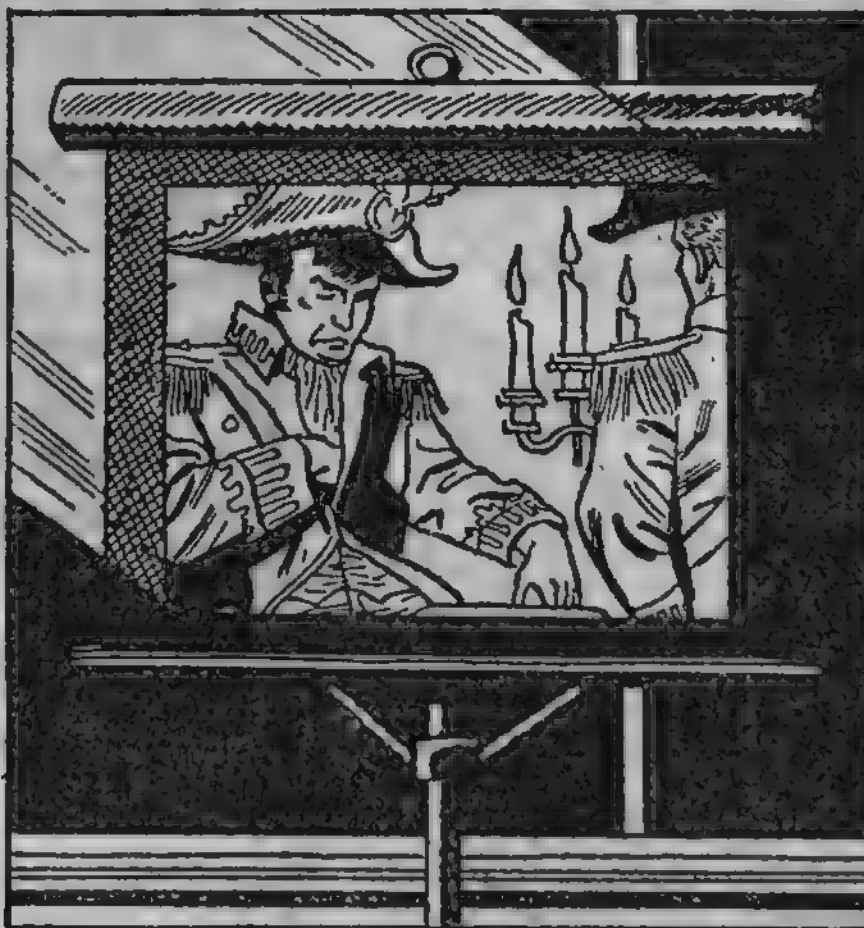


THE THEATRE WAS DARKENED, THE MOVIE BEGAN...THERE WERE RECOGNIZABLE IMAGES...



SUDDENLY ALL EYES WERE TURNED TOWARD THE AMERICANS...

WELL AT LEAST WE NOW KNOW TO WHOM THOSE VOICES IN SPACE BELONGED!



OF COURSE, THERE WAS A SIMPLE EXPLANATION FOR JEFF DUNN'S HAVING CAUGHT THE CONQUEROR **NAPOLÉON BONAPARTE** ON FILM! HIS JET PLANE HAD FLOWN SO MANY TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND AND LIGHT THAT IT HAD CAUGHT UP WITH EARLY 19TH CENTURY HISTORY!

THE END

HAROLD HUNGEDINGER WAS THE SHY, RETIRING TYPE... A NICE GUY WHO ALWAYS FINISHED LAST. BUT THEN AN AMAZING CHANGE CAME INTO HIS LIFE AND IT HAPPENED WHEN HE DONNED --

THOSE EVER-LOVIN' SPACE SHOES!

STORY: BOB STANDISH
ART: GERALD MCCANN



HAROLD'S DREAMING AGAIN! AS USUAL, IT CONCERNS LAURIE, THE GIRL NEXT DOOR...

OH, HAROLD! YOU'RE SO STRONG... SO POWERFUL...



CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

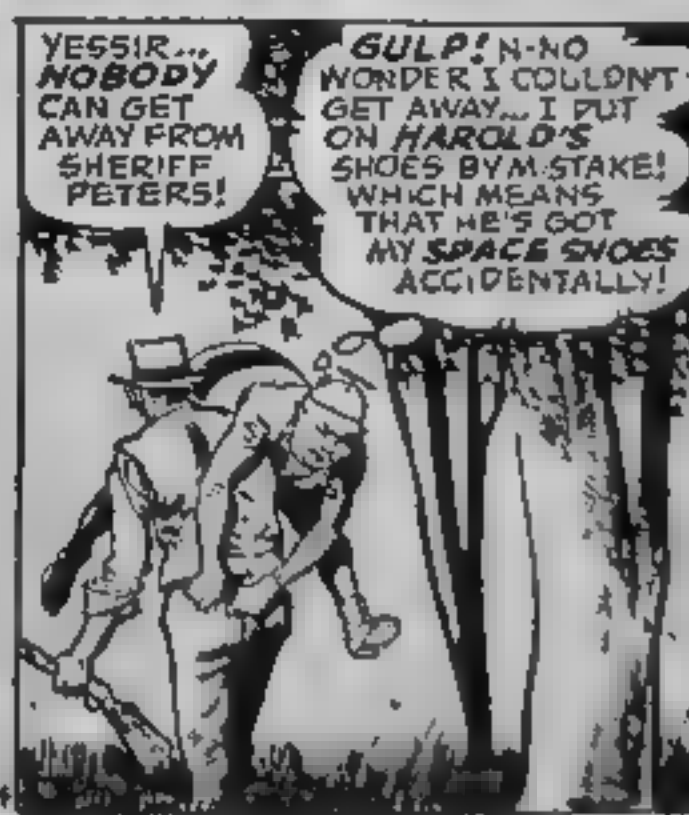


WHAT'S THE USE... ALL JUST DREAMS. I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS, OR THE APPEAL. WHAT WOULD A GIRL LIKE HER NEED A GUY LIKE ME FOR, ANYWAY?









THE TOWNSHIP LOCKUP CONTAINED ONLY ONE LARGE CELL...AND IN IT ALREADY WERE THE MEMBERS OF THE NOTORIOUS KELLY GANG, AWAITING TRANSFER TO THE STATE PENITENTIARY...

WELL, WELL. LOOKS LIKE WE GOT COMPANY.



WHAT IS IT? FISH... FOWL... VEGETABLE...?

I THINK IT'S A RED-TAILED CATYWAMPUS AND I'M GONNA INITIATE IT. COME HERE, YOU!



YEEEE-OWWWW!

FSSSSST!

BT-ZZZZZ!



YOU NEEDN'T BE SO SURPRISED. YOU SEE, I COME FROM THE PLANET BOOLA AND I CAN DO ANYTHING!

OH, YEAH? LET'S SEE YA GET THE BARS OUTA THAT WINDOW THEN!



WELL, BONBON COULD NEVER RESIST A CHALLENGE... AND SO...

SIMPLE...



HEY, CHARACTER! YOU'VE BEEN A BIG HELP... SO IF YOU WANNA COME ALONG WITH US...

NO, THANKS. I'VE GOT TO LOOK FOR A MAN ABOUT A PAIR OF SHOES!

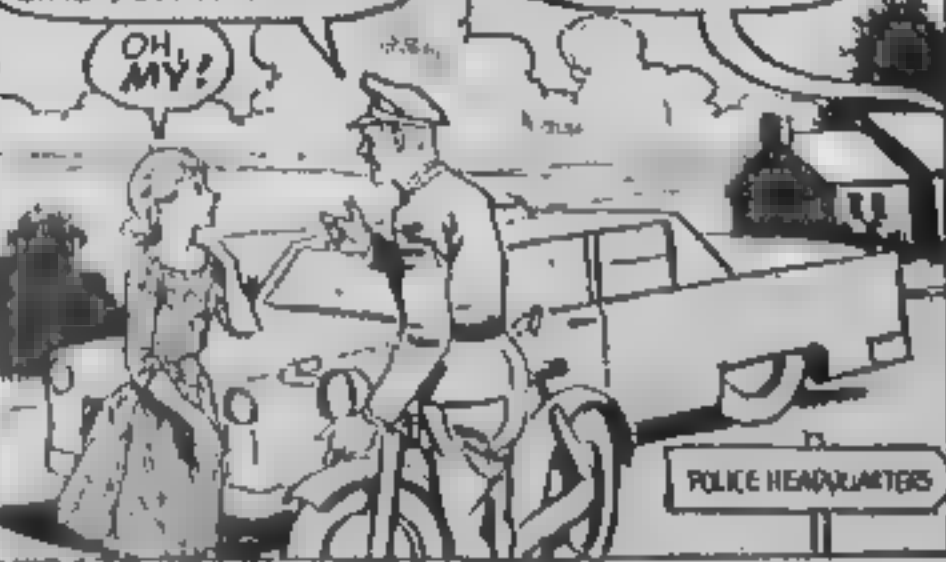


THE GANG NEEDED A CAR FOR ITS ESCAPE... AND IT JUST SO HAPPENED THAT NEARBY...

YESS R, LAURIE, I'M A REAL TOUGH GUY... AND THERE ISN'T A CRIMINAL WHO DOESN'T FEAR ME LIKE DEATH ITSELF!

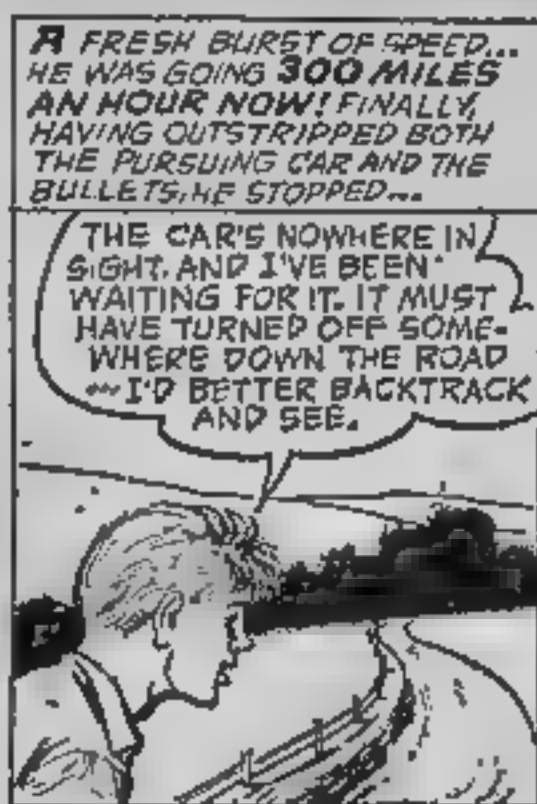
FREEZE, COPPER... AND REACH! THIS IS LOOIE THE BAGEL KELLY, AND I EAT COPS LIKE YOU FOR BREAKFAST!

OH, MY!



POLICE HEADQUARTERS







GULP! NOW I'M UP HERE!



THERE SHE IS! I'LL GET INSIDE... UNTIE HER...

YOU ONLY THINK YOU WILL, BUB!



LET ME... G-GO...

WE'LL TALK THAT OVER INSIDE, BUDDY!



I D-DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM... J-JUST LET ME G-GO AND I'LL D-DO ANYTHING!

THIS GUY'S A SKETCH... MAYBE HE CAN AMUSE US EVEN MORE. I GOT IT...



... HE'S GONNA DANCE FOR US! HAW-HAW!

YOW-EEEE! DON'T...



ONE THING YOU HAD TO ADMIT... THOSE SHOES DANCED MAGNIFICENTLY...

CLUMP
CLUMP
CLUMP

ZING

ZING
ZING



THEY EVEN SENT HAROLD IN BEAUTIFUL BALLET LEAPS THROUGH THE AIR...

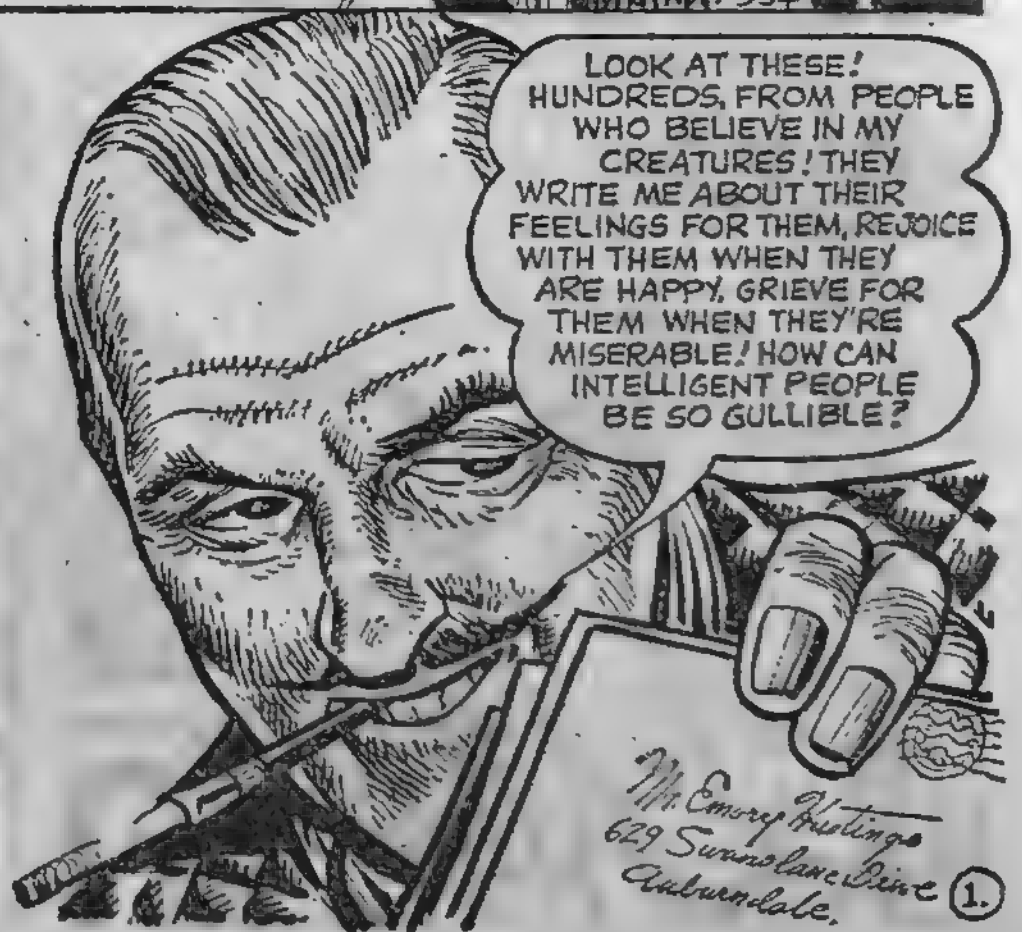
HAW-HAW-HAW!

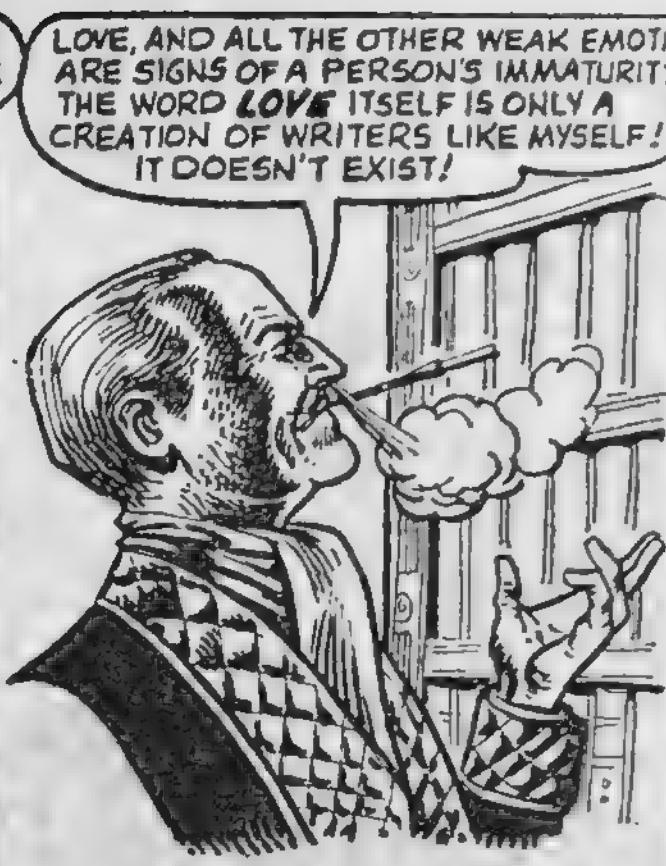
NEVER SEEN ANYTHIN' LIKE THIS... IN MY WHOLE LIFE... NO-NO!

BAM!



THE GIRL WHO WOULDN'T SPEAK!





AND SO YOU'VE MET EMORY HASTINGS, THE FAMOUS NOVELIST! ALTHOUGH HIS BOOKS DEALT WITH WARM PEOPLE, HE HIMSELF WAS COLD, WITH THOUGHTS ONLY OF HIMSELF!



WHENEVER EMORY WORKED, HE WORKED HARD! BUT THIS TIME WITH THE CREATION OF ELIZABETH, HE LOST HIMSELF MORE THAN USUAL! DAY TURNED INTO NIGHT AND STILL HE WORKED ON...

"HER VOICE WAS A BARE SEMBLANCE OF A BREEZE, AS SHE SPOKE TO TIMOTHY AND TOLD HIM THAT HIS HAPPINESS WAS THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERED TO HER..."



AND, AT DAWN, THIS WAS HOW MRS. BIGGS FOUND HIM...

THE POOR MAN! ALL HE HAS IS HIS WRITING! HE'S NEVER LOVED OR BEEN LOVED, AND WITH ALL HIS SUCCESS, HE'S STILL UNHAPPY, ALTHOUGH HE WON'T ADMIT IT EVEN TO HIMSELF!



MR. HASTINGS, SIR!

ELIZABETH!



ELIZABETH, SIR? I'M MRS. BIGGS!

EH? ER...OF COURSE! HOW STUPID OF ME! ELIZABETH IS JUST A CHARACTER I'VE CREATED!



HMMM! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE IN YOUR OWN CHARACTERS!

OF COURSE NOT! I WAS JUST WRAPPED UP IN MY WORK, THAT'S ALL!



STILL...IF SUCH A GIRL AS ELIZABETH DID EXIST, IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL! SHE'S A GIRL THAT EVEN A MAN SUCH AS I WOULD WANT!



MR. HASTINGS! YOU'RE NOT GOING BACK TO WORK? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO BED!

I'VE GOT TO WORK! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN GET CLOSE TO...OH, LEAVE ME ALONE, MRS. BIGGS!



EMORY HASTINGS WROTE DAY AND NIGHT, OBSESSED BY THE GIRL HE HAD CREATED, MAKING HER MORE DEFINED, AND WONDERFUL...

AND EVEN WHILE HE SLEPT, SHE LIVED IN HIS DREAMS...

I CAN'T STOP THINKING OF HER! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT... GO FOR A WALK... FORGET HER!

THIS IS ALL I ENJOY NOW... DESCRIBING HER... MAKING HER ACT AND TALK! SHE'S AS REAL TO ME AS ANY BREATHING PERSON!



THE MOON SHONE IN THE PARK, AND COMING OUT OF THE SHADOWS, HE SAW A GIRL! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, HE SHOWED CONCERN FOR ANOTHER HUMAN BEING...

AS SHE CAME CLOSER, HE SAW THAT SHE LOOKED AMAZINGLY AS HE IMAGINED ELIZABETH TO BE! SO THERE **WAS** SUCH A GIRL! BY SHEER COINCIDENCE, HE HAD FOUND ONE THAT RESEMBLED HIS OWN CREATION...

THAT GIRL... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER THAT LOOKS FAMILIAR!



I BEG YOUR PARDON, MISS! I AM A WRITER AND I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU, IF YOU DON'T REGARD THIS AS RUDE!

NOT AT ALL! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?



YOU! YOU'RE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURE I'VE EVER SEEN! YOU'RE SOMETHING OUT OF ONE OF MY BOOKS! IT'S AMAZING!

IS IT?



TELL ME... WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? WHAT IS YOUR LIFE LIKE?



THE GIRL DIDN'T SPEAK! SHE LOOKED AT HIM WITH LEVEL EYES, AS HE BECAME MORE URGENT IN HIS QUESTIONS...

PLEASE DON'T BE OFFENDED! I'VE **GOT** TO KNOW THESE THINGS ABOUT YOU! TELL ME!



STILL SHE DIDN'T SPEAK! AND EMORY HASTINGS GREW MORE DESPERATE IN HIS PLEADING...



I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH... YOU WON'T BELIEVE THIS... BUT I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU! I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR WEEKS AND I'M HOPELESSLY IN LOVE WITH YOU! TELL ME WHO YOU ARE!

THERE WAS NO REPLY! HE BEGGED, HE PLEADED, WITHOUT EFFECT! THEN HE TRIED THE LAST, DESPERATE ATTEMPT...



I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE YOU WON'T BELIEVE! I **CREATED** A GIRL EXACTLY LIKE YOU... YOUR FACE, YOUR MANNER... EVERYTHING! AND I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER! NOW I SEE HER IN **YOU**, ALIVE AND REAL! PLEASE! YOU MUST TELL ME! **WHO ARE YOU?**

THE GIRL TURNED AND WALKED SLOWLY AWAY FROM HIM, TOWARD THE DARKNESS...

AT THE EDGE OF THE DARKNESS, SHE TURNED AND LOOKED AT HIM! FOR A BRIEF INSTANT, HOPE GLIMMERED IN HIS HEART...



DON'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS, PLEASE!



THEN SHE SPOKE...



DON'T YOU **KNOW** WHO I AM? DON'T YOU **RECOGNIZE** ME, EMORY?

THEN SHE WAS GONE, BACK INTO THE NIGHT...



ELIZABETH!



NEVER WILL I RIDICULE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE CREATIONS OF THE MIND!



NOW I KNOW THAT IF YOU **NEED** THEM, THEY CAN **APPEAR** TO BE REAL! NOW I KNOW!

THE END

THE AMAZING MACHINE TOLD DUTCH GUNTHER THE ODDS WERE SO GREAT IN HIS FAVOR,
THAT HE JUST COULDN'T LOSE! BUT SOMEBODY ASKED A STRANGE QUESTION AND
CHANGED THE ODDS WHILE DUTCH WASN'T LOOKING!

FOOLPROOF!

BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT CENSUS, THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE
EXACTLY TWO HUNDRED AND ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-SEVEN PEOPLE!

THAT WILL BE ALL THE QUESTIONS FOR THIS
MORNING. GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS, NEWS
REELS AND TELEVISION! YOU'VE HEARD MY
MACHINE, THE DAMSON MENTAL MARVEL,
ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS, SOLVE ALL
THE PROBLEMS YOU'VE PRESENTED!



PROFESSOR DAMSON WAS PROUD OF
THE AMAZING PERFORMANCE OF HIS
MIRACULOUS MACHINE...

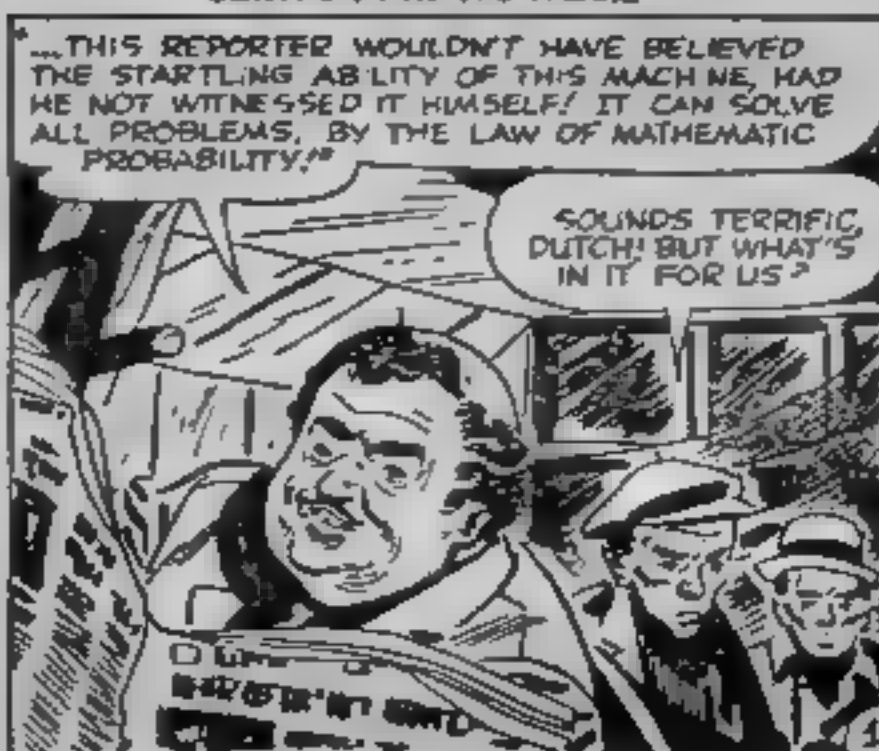
AMONG THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO HEARD
ABOUT THE MENTAL MARVEL, WERE DUTCH
GUNTHER AND HIS PALS...

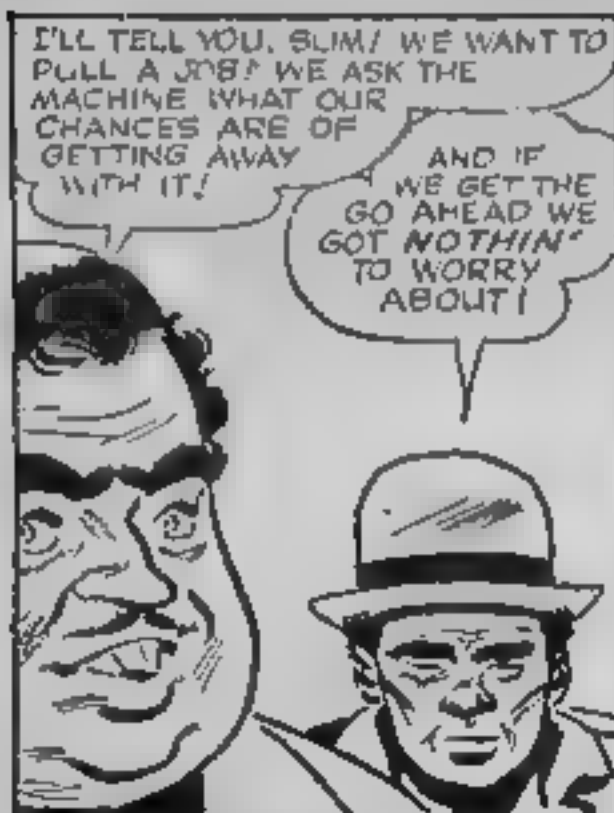
THE MACHINE AND I WILL BE HERE AT THE
STATE UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM AVAILABLE
FOR DEMONSTRATION TO ANYONE
INTERESTED, DURING THIS
ENTIRE WEEK!



...THIS REPORTER WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED
THE STARTLING ABILITY OF THIS MACHINE, HAD
HE NOT WITNESSED IT HIMSELF! IT CAN SOLVE
ALL PROBLEMS, BY THE LAW OF MATHEMATIC
PROBABILITY!

SOUNDS TERRIFIC,
DUTCH! BUT WHAT'S
IN IT FOR US?

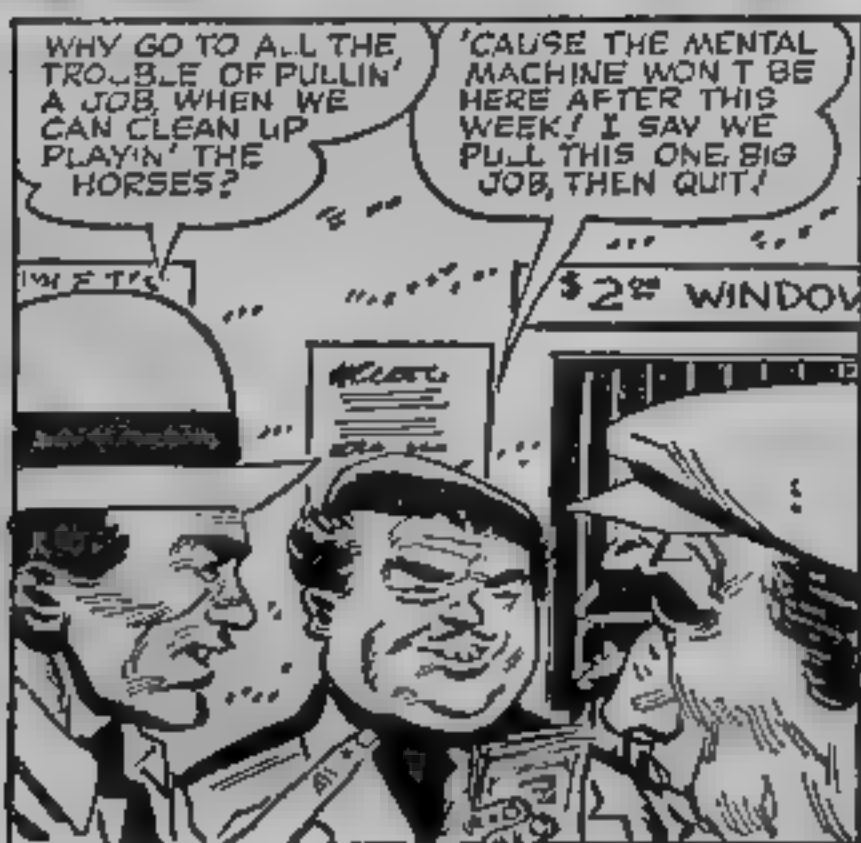




LATE THAT NIGHT DUTCH GUNTHER AND HIS MIB BROKE INTO THE AUDITORIUM



THE CROWD IN THE GRANDSTAND AT PIMLICO NEXT DAY WAS ELECTRIFIED BY BLUE BOY'S RUNNING IN THE THIRD RACE...



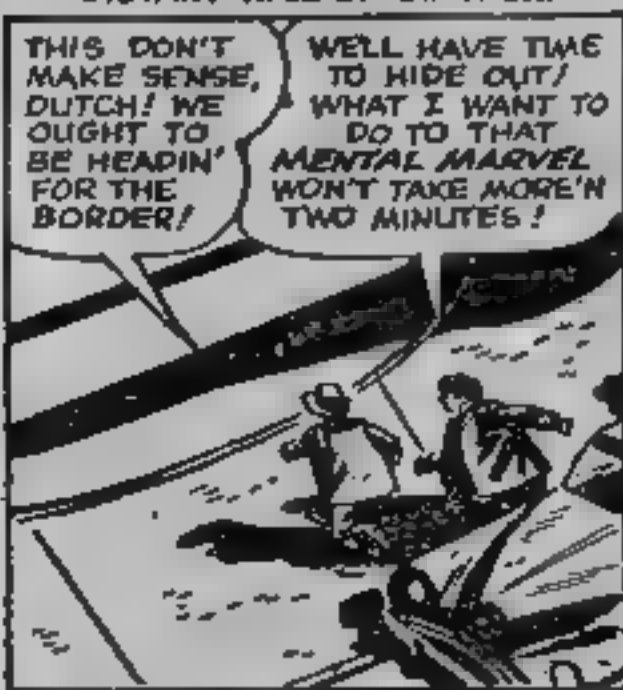
THE MENTAL MARVEL HAVING PASSED THE TEST, IT WAS CALLED UPON THAT NIGHT TO ANSWER THE ALL IMPORTANT QUESTION...



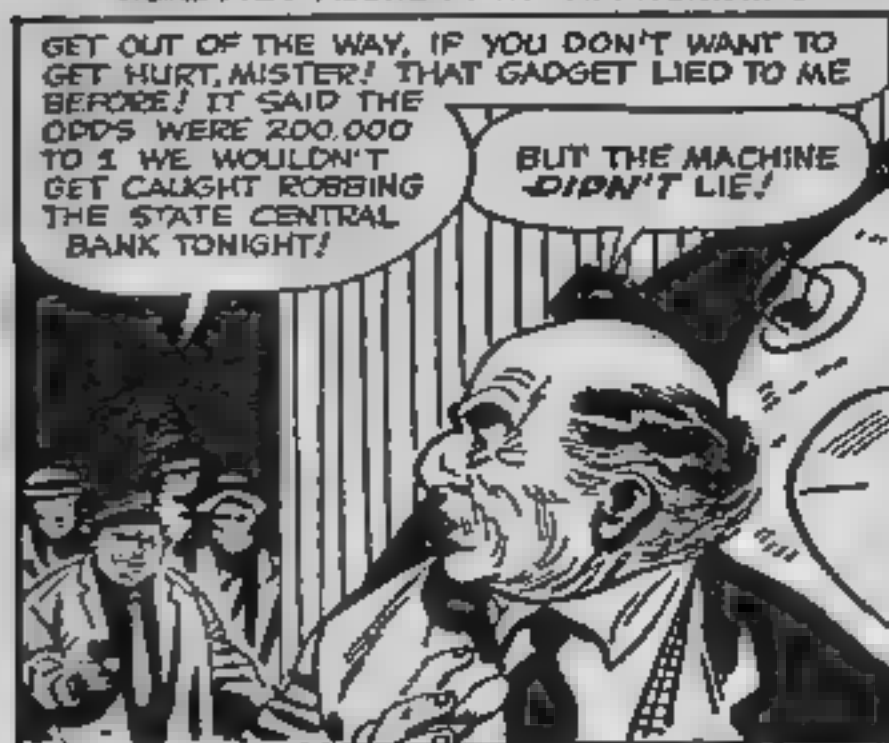
AN HOUR AND A HALF LATER, DUTCH AND HIS BOYS ENTERED THE STATE CENTRAL BANK...



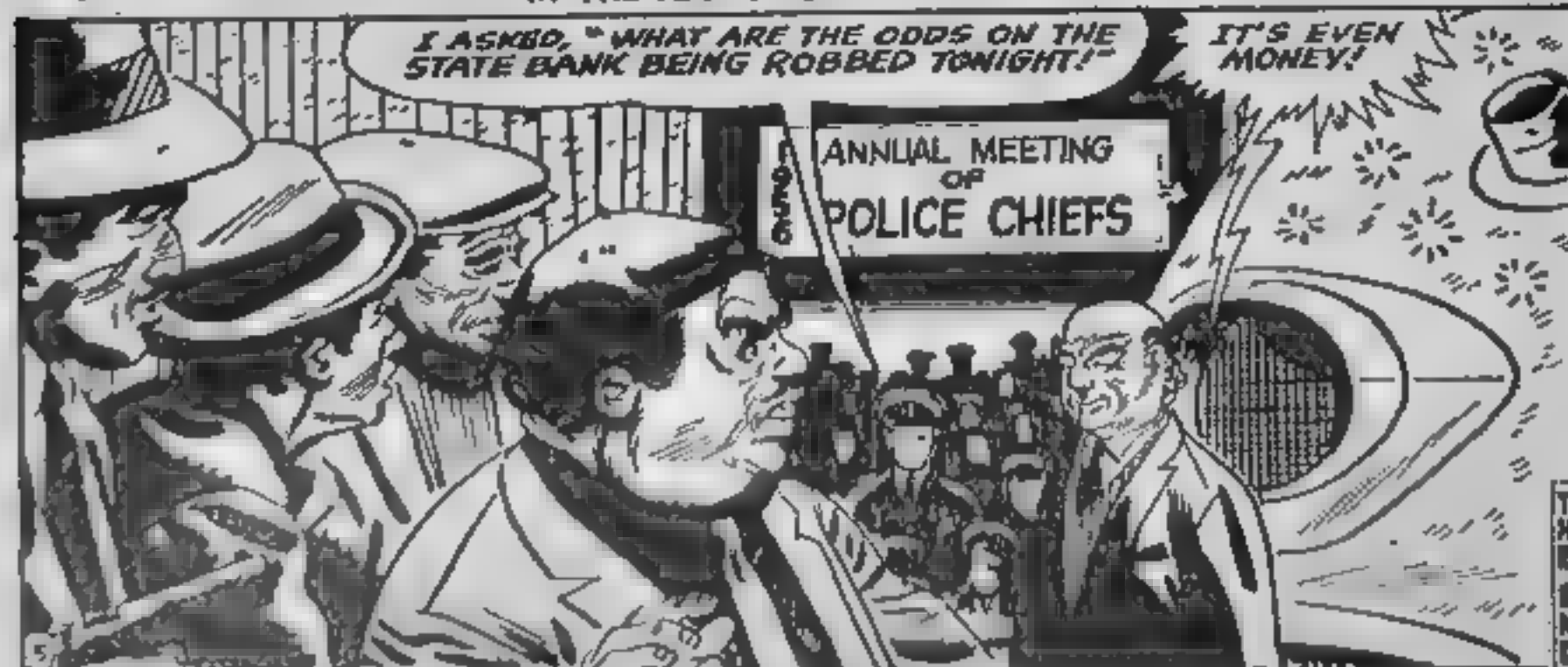
EVEN AS THEY REACHED THE UNIVERSITY'S AUDITORIUM, DUTCH AND HIS MOB COULD HEAR THE DISTANT WAIL OF SIRENS...



THE FOUR THUGS WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THEY WERE *NOT* ALONE IN THE AUDITORIUM...



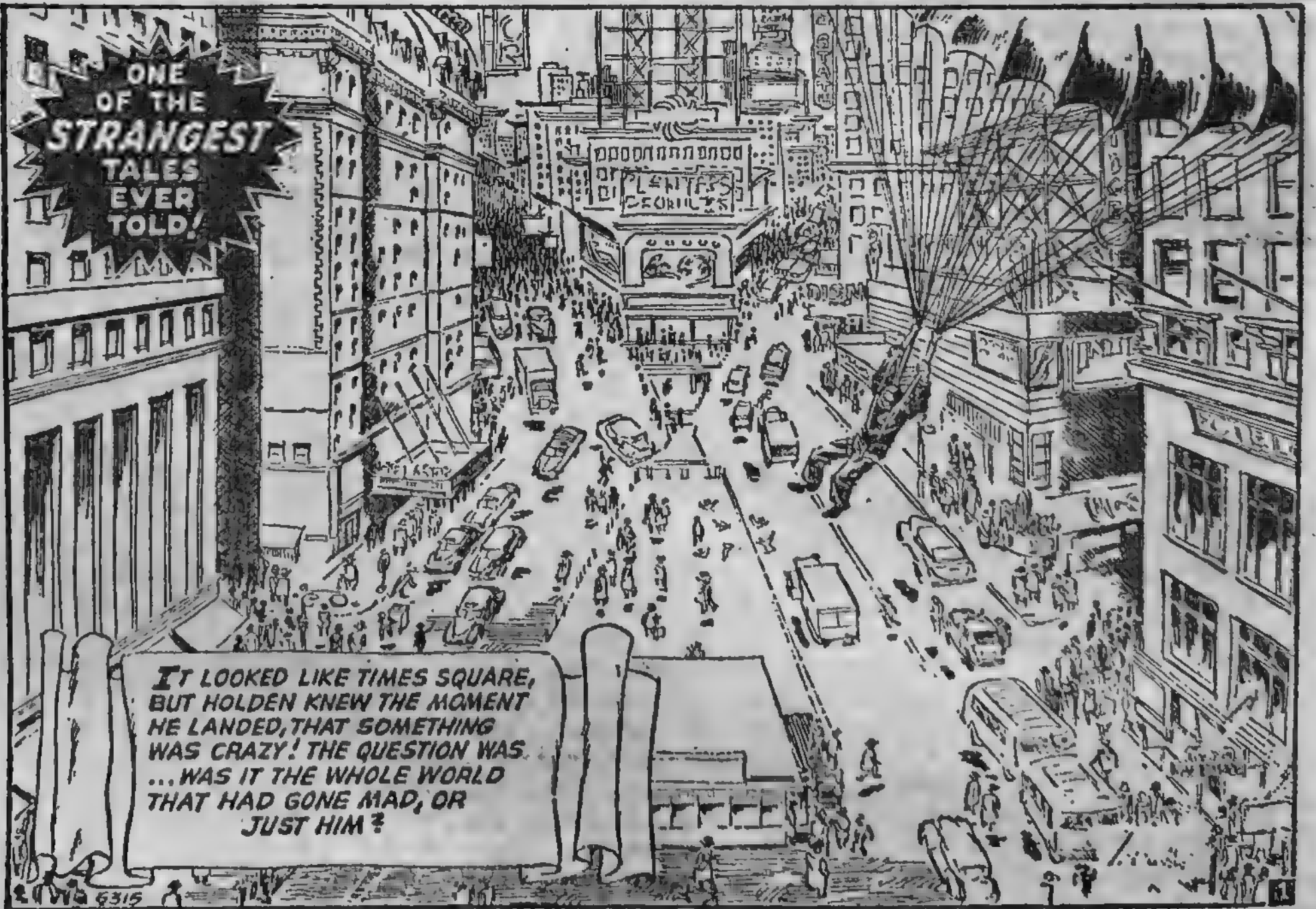
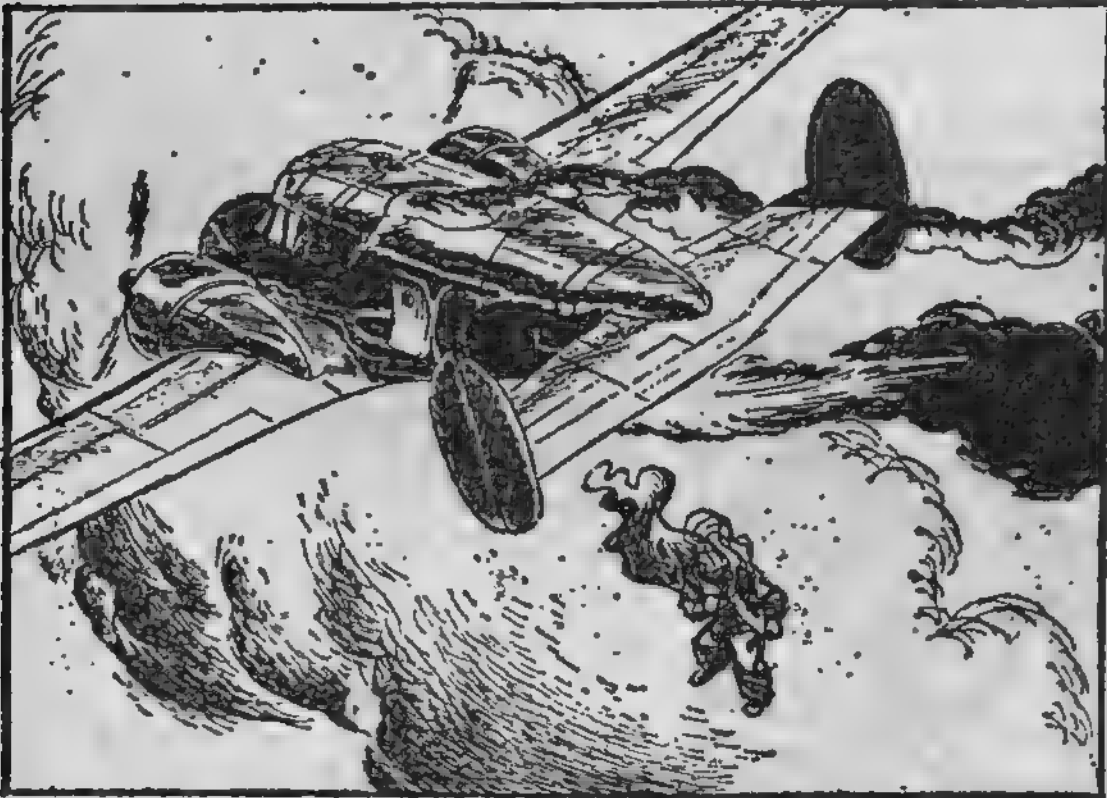
NOT UNTIL THAT MOMENT WERE DUTCH AND HIS HOODS AWARE THAT THERE WAS AN AUDIENCE IN THE AUDITORIUM...



THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

JIM HOLDEN'S PLANE WAS OUT OF CONTROL, AS IT SHUDDERED AND CHOKED AT 10,000 FEET! ALL HE COULD DO WAS PARACHUTE TO SAFETY...

HE HADN'T KNOWN JUST WHERE HE WAS! IN FACT HE THOUGHT HE WAS PARACHUTING INTO THE SEA, UNTIL HE LOOKED DOWN AND SAW...



ALL HOLDEN COULD DO WAS STAND AND STARE AT THE STRANGE SIGHT OF PEOPLE WHO WALKED ON AIR, WHILE HE HAD BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND...



...EVERYTHING ABOUT THESE PEOPLE WAS PUZZLING... THEY WORE THEIR WRIST WATCHES AROUND THEIR NECKS... SHORT-SLEEVED COATS, AND ONLY THE BRIM OF THE HATS... EVERYTHING SEEMED TO WORK IN REVERSE...



WHEN ONE OF THE CHARACTERS THOUGHT HOLDEN WASN'T WATCHING HIM, HE STUFFED A HANDFUL OF BILLS INTO HOLDEN'S POCKET...



PEOPLE WALKING IN THE AIR, STUFFING MONEY IN YOUR POCKETS! I'D BETTER TURN MYSELF OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES... I'M MAD AS A HATTER!



BUT HOLDEN FOUND OUT THAT THIS WAS EASIER SAID THAN DONE...



LET ME THINK THIS THING OUT! IS IT POSSIBLE THAT WHEN I BAILED OUT, I JUMPED INTO A SPACE WARP AND LANDED IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION... OR A DIFFERENT WORLD?



ALL RIGHT, YOU... YOU'RE UNDER SUSPICION!

THAT'S RIGHT... SO YOU'RE BEING SET FREE IMMEDIATELY! GET OUT!





YEP, I'LL BET THAT'S IT! I'VE LANDED IN ANOTHER DIMENSION...PARALLEL TO OURS! EVERYTHING IS THE SAME, EXCEPT THE WAY PEOPLE ACT!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?



WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT? I'M A STRANGER HERE... FROM ANOTHER WORLD! WHAT'S THE MONEY FOR?

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW? WHEW! WELL, THANKS ANYWAY... THAT WAS THE **LAST** I HAD! YOU'VE MADE ME **RICH!**



NOW WILL YOU TELL ME WHY YOU, AND EVERYBODY ELSE, KEEPS SHOVING ALL THIS MONEY ON ME?

WELL, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS WHERE YOU COME FROM, BUT HERE A MAN IS **RICH** WHEN HE'S **BROKE**, AND **POOR** WHEN HE HAS A LOT OF MONEY!



AT INCOME TAX TIME, THE MORE YOU HAVE, THE MORE THE GOVERNMENT GIVES YOU! MONEY TAKES UP SPACE, HAS TO BE COUNTED, TAKES UP TIME AND ENERGY TOO! NOW THAT I HAVE NO MONEY TO WORRY ABOUT, I'M **RICH!**



IT'S LOGICAL, IN A FANTASTIC SORT OF WAY! BUT TELL ME, IF YOU HAVE NO MONEY, HOW DO YOU BUY THINGS?

THAT'S JUST IT...IN ORDER TO BUY SOMETHING, YOU'VE GOT TO **ACCEPT** MONEY! THAT'S HOW THE STOREKEEPER GETS RID OF ALL HIS!



WELL, SO LONG...AND DON'T TAKE TOO MANY DOLLAR BILLS! DON'T FORGET, THE ONLY HAPPY PEOPLE, ARE RICH ONES LIKE **ME!**

WHAT A PLACE THIS TURNED OUT TO BE! IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD GET ALL THIS DOUGH BACK HOME!



HEY, WHY NOT? ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GO AROUND AND COLLECT THIS MONEY... THEN BUY A PLANE, AND LET THE GUY GIVE ME SOME MORE... AND TRY TO FLY BACK THROUGH THAT SPACE WARP! BACK HOME, I'LL BE A **BILLIONAIRE!**

AND SO, JIM HOLDEN BEGAN
HIS AMAZING CAREER OF
BECOMING THE POOREST MAN
IN **THIS** WORLD, SO THAT HE
COULD BE THE RICHEST MAN
IN HIS **OWN**!



THE WORD SPREAD AND
PEOPLE FLOCKED TO GIVE
THEIR MONEY TO THIS MAN
WHO WAS **TAKING** IT WITH-
OUT ASKING ANYTHING IN
RETURN...



AN OLD WAREHOUSE THAT
HE RENTED WAS USED FOR
STOCKPILING THE LARGER
BILLS! AND HE DIDN'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT BEING
ROBBED...



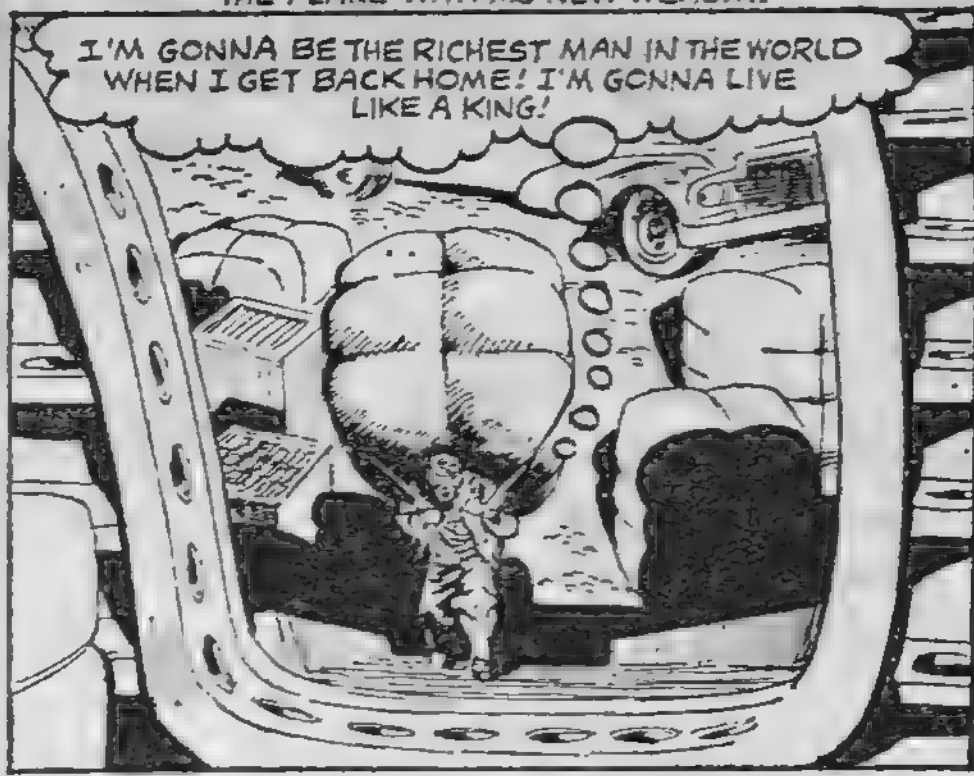
NOW ALL HE NEEDED WAS
A LARGE ENOUGH PLANE
TO CARRY THE STUFF HOME!



HOLDEN REALIZED THAT THE PURCHASE OF A PLANE WOULD
MEAN HE'D HAVE TO **ACCEPT** ANOTHER FORTUNE! HE HOPED
THERE'D BE ROOM FOR ALL THE MONEY...



FOR WEEKS HOLDEN WORKED DAY AND NIGHT LOADING
THE PLANE WITH HIS NEW WEALTH!



FINALLY, THE DAY ARRIVED! HOLDEN HAD THE PLANE FUELED,
CHECKED, AND WHEELED OUT ONTO THE AIRFIELD! HE WAS
GOING HOME WITH HIS FORTUNE...



THOSE PEOPLE COMING TOWARD THE PLANE LOOK
EXCITED! MAYBE THEY'VE GOTTEN WISE TO ME!



BUT HOLDEN HAD NOTHING TO FEAR! WORD HAD SPREAD THAT THE MONEY-MAD STRANGER WAS LEAVING, AND OTHERS WANTED TO UNLOAD THEIR CASH...



FINALLY, HOLDEN TOOK OFF, AND AN UNHAPPY GROAN WENT UP FROM THE CROWD! THEY HAD COME TO LIKE THIS MAD PHILANTHROPIST WHO LOVED TO HELP THEM! AND THEY WATCHED HIM GO.



IT WASN'T DIFFICULT FOR A SKILLFUL PILOT LIKE JIM HOLDEN TO GET BACK THROUGH THE SPACE WARP, AND BACK INTO HIS OWN DIMENSION...



THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THAT HOLDEN HAD BROUGHT BACK A FABULOUS CARGO! THE PHOTOGRAPHERS FIRED FLASHBULBS AND THE REPORTERS FIRED QUESTIONS



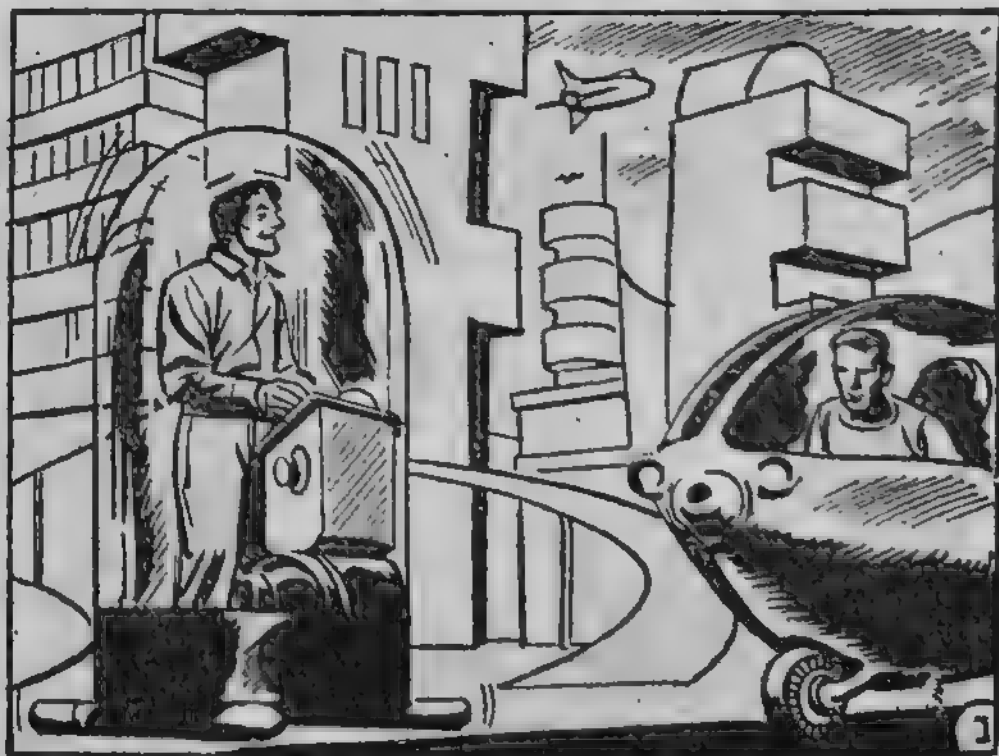
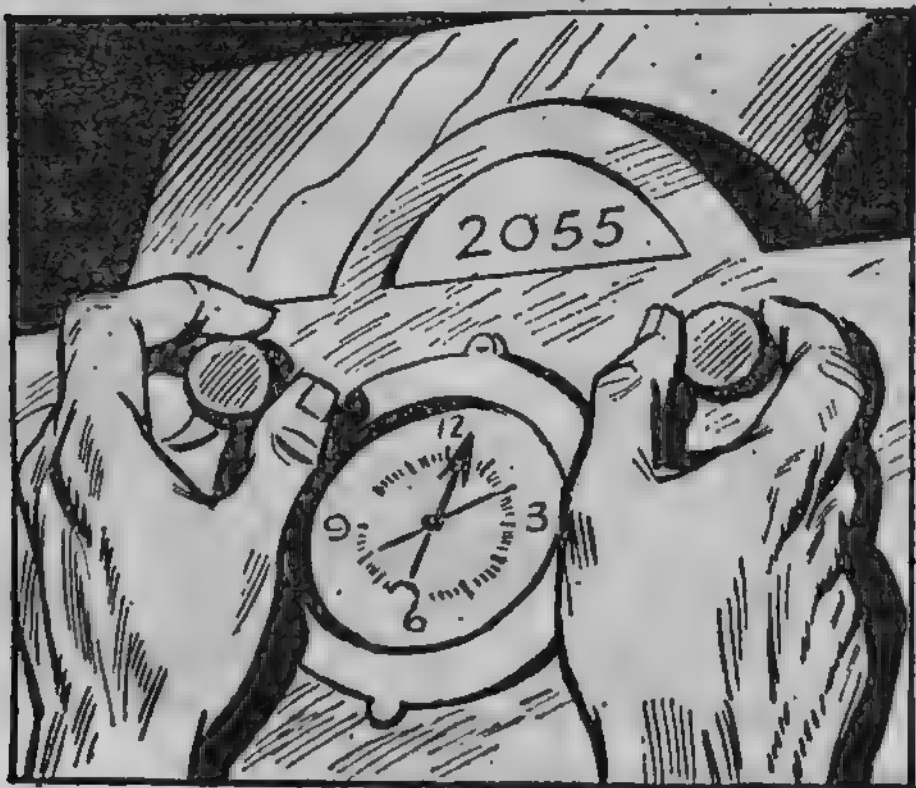
THE PRESENT WAS POLICED BY EFFICIENT POLICE OFFICERS, BUT THE FUTURE...*THAT*
LOOKED LIKE THE PERFECT PLACE FOR A ...

TIME CRIME



WITH A CONFIDENT SMILE, BRILLIANT ED EVANS
STEPS INTO HIS COMPLETED MACHINE...

WITH A LOW HUM, THE MACHINE BEGINS TO VIBRATE
AND ROCK ON ITS CRADLE, AND SUDDENLY COMES TO
REST IN A STRANGE WORLD...





IT WORKS!



JUST LOOK AT IT! HAVEN'T SEEN AN OLD MODEL LIKE THAT ONE OUTSIDE A MUSEUM IN YEARS!

BUT I DON'T SEE A LICENSE ON IT!



EXCUSE ME, SIR, BUT WHERE'S YOUR LICENSE TO PROVE YOU'VE TAKEN THE TIME-TRAVELER'S OATH NOT TO VIOLATE EVENTS IN THE PAST OR FUTURE?

OATH? LICENSE? ER... I'VE GOT A FRIEND DOWN AT CITY HALL, WHO OKAYED ME!



STOP! IT'S NO USE RUNNING! THE **TIME ADJUSTERS** WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU IF YOU'VE DONE ANYTHING WRONG!

I WON'T BE AROUND WHEN THEY GET HERE!



YOU CAN'T ESCAPE BY HIDING IN ANY OTHER TIME PERIOD! THE **TIME ADJUSTERS** WILL TRACK YOU DOWN AND ADJUST WHAT-
EVER YOU'VE DONE **WRONG!**

SLAMMING DOWN THE STARTER, ED FEELS THE SAFETY OF THE MACHINE AROUND HIM, AS IT PASSES FROM THE FUTURE BACK TO TODAY...



THE OLD GARAGE SURE LOOKS GOOD!



WONDER WHO THOSE "TIME ADJUSTERS" ARE? WELL, I'D BETTER PLAY SAFE WHEN I JOCKEY AROUND INTO THE FUTURE! AND I'VE A WAY TO GET A MILLION BY JUST GOING INTO **TOMORROW!**

THE SECOND NATIONAL'S VAULT IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE A MILLION IN CASH! WITH THESE TOOLS AND THE TIME MACHINE, I CAN TRANSFER THAT CASH TO *MY* WALL SAFE!



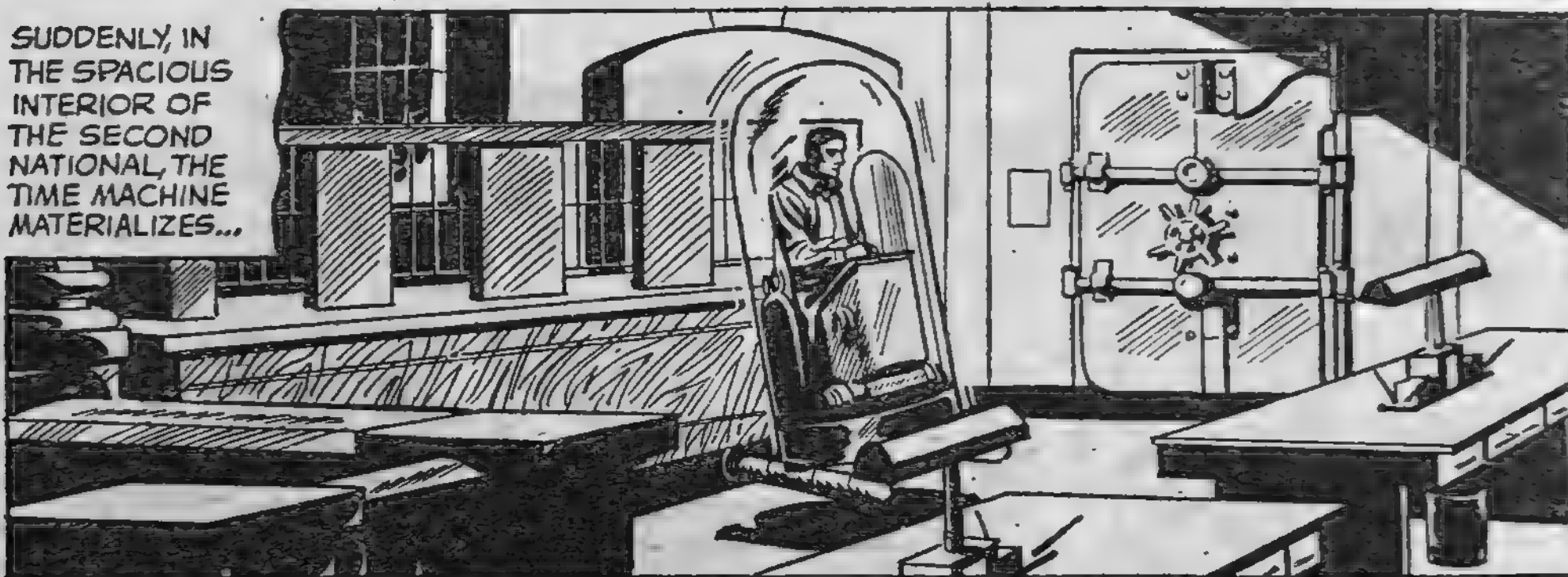
THERE! THE DIAL'S SET FOR TOMORROW AT EIGHT IN THE MORNING...JUST BEFORE THE BANK OPENS! BUT AFTER MY VISIT THEY'LL HAVE TO CLOSE!



THROWING THE CONTROL LEVER, ED EVANS SETS THE STARTING MACHINE INTO MOTION...



SUDDENLY, IN THE SPACIOUS INTERIOR OF THE SECOND NATIONAL, THE TIME MACHINE MATERIALIZES...



THE WATCHMAN MUST BE OUTSIDE! NO ONE COULD HAVE SEEN ME ENTER!



AND BEFORE ANYONE SPOTS THIS BROKEN VAULT DOOR, I'LL BE BACK INTO *YESTERDAY*!



WITH DEFT TOUCHES OF HIS TORCH ED EVANS CUTS THE HUGE DOOR'S HINGES AND PRIES IT OPEN...

NOW TO MAKE A *WITHDRAWAL* WITHOUT GETTING MY BANK BOOK CHANGED!



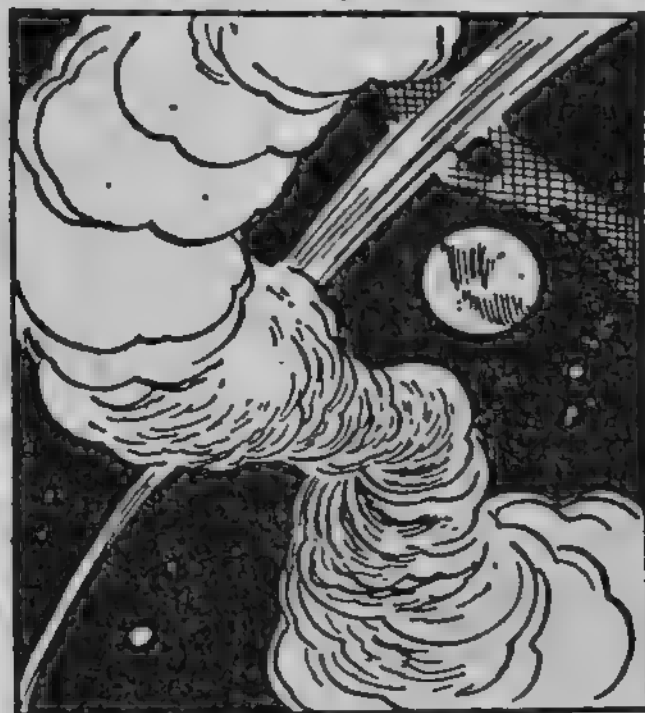
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH
MONEY TO LAST ME A
LIFETIME!



GOT TO MAKE SURE I TAKE THE
TOOLS BACK TO YESTERDAY
WITH ME FOR THE FINISHING
TOUCHES ON THIS "TIME
CRIME"!



WITH A SATISFIED SMIRK, ED
EVANS WORKS THE CONTROLS,
AND AS SUDDENLY AS HIS
ASTONISHING MACHINE APPEARS
INSIDE THE BANK, IT VANISHES...



HERE I AM, BACK IN *TODAY* WITH MONEY
THAT WAS STOLEN *TOMORROW*!



LUCKY I HAD THE FORSIGHT TO HAVE THIS
WALL SAFE MADE *DEEP*!



NEXT STOP...POLICE HEADQUARTERS! I'LL
PRESENT THEM WITH THE BURGLAR TOOLS,
SO THEY'LL BE IN THEIR CUSTODY *TOMORROW*,
WHEN THEY SHOULD BE BREAKING INTO THE
BANK VAULT!

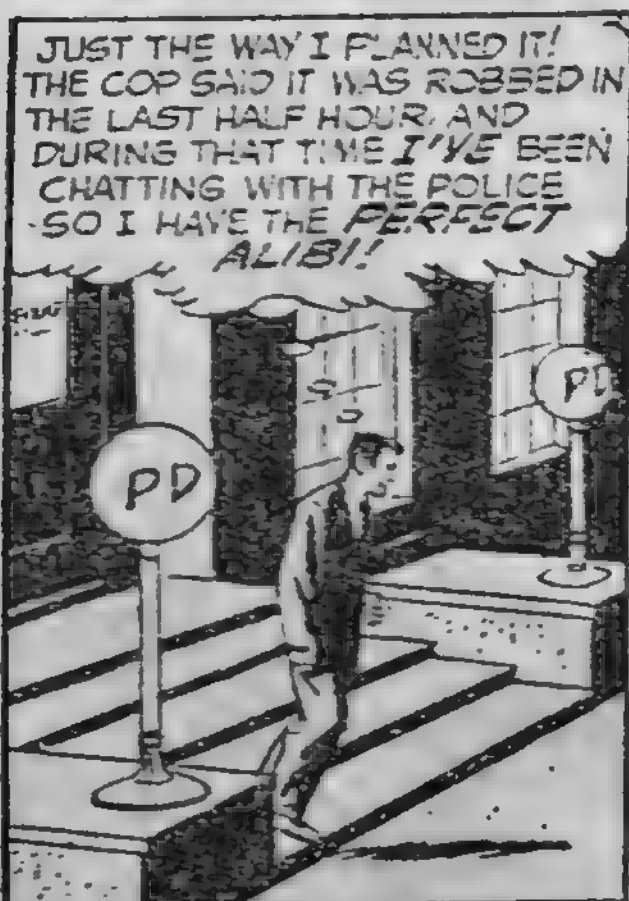


AT THE POLICE STATION, ED EVANS REPORTS FINDING
THE TORCH AND CROW BAR, AS THE POLICE OFFICER
CHECKS THE FILES...

NO, MR. EVANS, WE'VE NO RECORD OF ANY CRIME
HAVING BEEN COMMITTED THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY
HAVE INVOLVED *THESE* TOOLS! BUT THANKS FOR
TURNING THEM IN! YOU MAY HAVE HELPED *PREVENT*
SOME *FUTURE CRIME*!



THE NEXT MORNING, ED EVANS PUTS IN HIS APPEAR-
ANCE AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SHORTLY BEFORE
THE BANK OPENS...



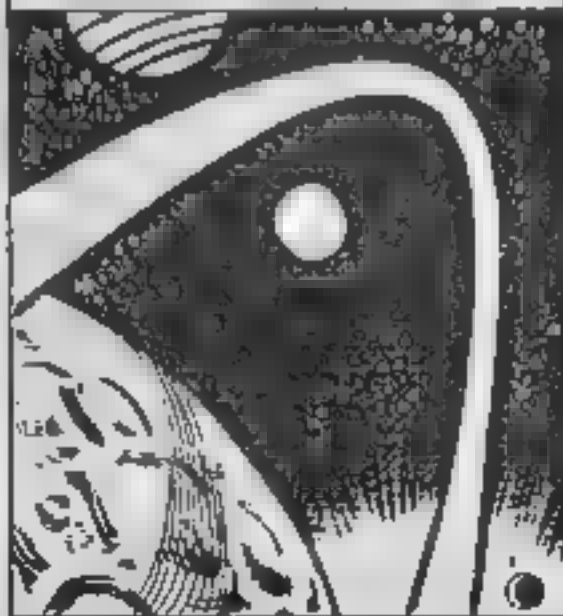
AFRICA, THE DARK CONTINENT SEETHES WITH MYSTERIES! SOME HAVE BEEN EXPLAINED WHILE OTHERS NEVER WILL BE! THE WORLD IS STILL TOO IMMATURE TO COPE WITH THE TRUTH OF MANY, THE WITCHDOCTOR, AND THE KINGDOM HE SOUGHT TO CLAIM...

WITH THE HELP OF HOGGAR

IT FIRST APPEARED AS A
PINPOINT OF LIGHT ..



...WHICH SEEMED TO GROW
BIGGER AND BIGGER...



...AS IT HEADED STRAIGHT
FOR EARTH ..



A METEORITE? PERHAPS...
BUT ONE SUCH AS HAS NEVER
BEFORE BEEN SEEN BY THE
EYES OF MAN! IT ENTERED
THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE
AND CAME TO REST, FINALLY,
IN A WOODEN VALLEY OF
SOUTH AFRICA, SEEN ONLY
BY MANU!



MANU, THE POWER-MAD WITCH-DOCTOR, WHO HAD BEEN BANISHED FROM HIS TRIBE FOR HIS EVIL ACTIVITIES ...



"HU!" HE MUSED, PACING ABOUT THE STRANGE STONE FROM THE SKY! "CAN THIS BE TURNED TO A WAY BACK TO POWER?"



"SURE IT IS A SIGN FROM THE GODS!" HE THOUGHT AS HE SET ABOUT CARVING THE STONE INTO A HUGE STATUE ...



BUT THE JOB WAS NOT AN EASY ONE! HE WOULD SPEND A MONTH AT HIS TASK! THE GODS WOULD LOOK AT HIM WITH FAVOR FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE TASK, AND ALL THE WHILE HE DREAMED OF HIS RETURN TO POWER! "SURELY," HE THOUGHT, "THIS WILL PROVE THAT I AM THE ONLY TRUE LEADER OF MY PEOPLE!"



FINALLY HIS WORK WAS FINISHED! MANU HAD CARVED OUT HIS IDOL AND WITH THE HELP OF IT, "I WILL BE A STRONG LEADER AGAIN! YES, ~~MOGAR~~" AS HE CALLED IT, "WILL BRING ME TO POWER AGAIN!"



WITH A PLAN WORKED OUT, MANU LET HIMSELF BE SEEN BY HIS TRIBESMEN! "THERE," THEY SHOUTED, "THERE IS MANU! DESTROY HIM! KILL HIM!"



A FEW SPEARS NEARLY FINISHED HIS SCHEME BEFORE IT BEGAN! "I WILL NOT BE HURT! THE GODS WILL PROTECT ME!" HE THOUGHT AS HE RAN...



BUT WITH AN ADDED SPURT OF SPEED, HE MADE IT TO THE VALLEY WITH THE OTHERS RIGHT BEHIND HIM! "IT IS GOOD! NOW THEY WILL SEE FOR THEMSELVES!"



AND HE FOUND HIS PLAN WORKING WHEN THEY CAME UPON HIM AND HIS HOGAR! "WHAT IS THIS?" ASKED ONE...



MANU TOLD THEM, "HOGAR IS A SIGN FROM THE GODS THAT I AM TO BE YOUR LEADER!"



BUT ONE WARRIOR AROSE AMONG THE LISTENERS WHO BELIEVED DIFFERENTLY! "MANU IS BAD AND SHOULD NEVER RULE AGAIN!" HE SHOUTED HIS DEFIANCE...



BUT MANU STOOD HIS GROUND, "I WILL NOT GIVE IN! HOGAR IS A SIGN FROM THE HEAVENS THAT I, MANU, AM TO BE YOUR LEADER! AND HOGAR WILL COME TO LIFE TO PROVE IT!"



"WHEN THE MOON IS FULL, I WILL BREATHE LIFE INTO HOGAR, AND HE WILL LIVE TO SHOW YOU! I AM YOUR NEW LEADER, YOUR CHOSEN LEADER!" MANU TOLD THEM...



AND DEEP WITHIN HIS BRAIN, MANU WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WOULD BE THUS! WHAT WAS THE STRANGE MATERIAL FROM WHICH HE HAD CREATED HOGAR, WHY DID IT ARRIVE AT JUST THE SPOT UPON WHICH HE WAS STANDING, IF NOT TO POINT HIM OUT AS THE "CHOSEN ONE OF THE GODS"? SURELY "THEY" WOULD NOT TURN "THEIR" BACKS ON HIM NOW...



AND WITH THAT, HE DISMISSED HIS FELLOW TRIBESMEN AND TOLD THEM, "RETURN WITH THE WHOLE TRIBE ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON!"



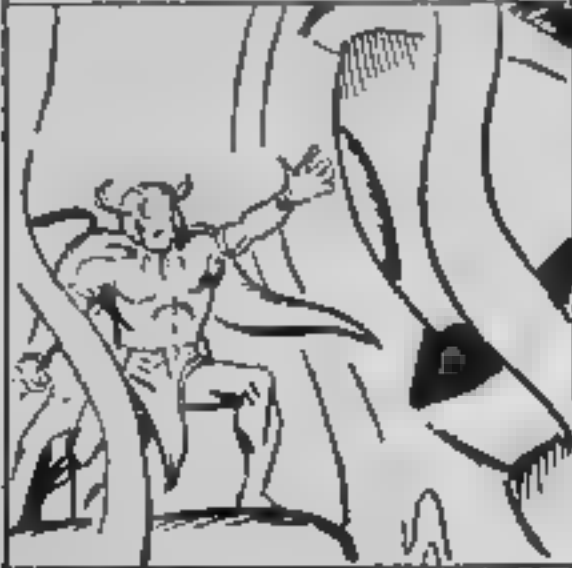
WHEN THE FULL MOON WAS HIGH IN THE SKY, THE TRIBESMEN FILLED THE VALLEY! THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN STOOD OFF IN THE TREES TO STARE IN AWE AT THE HUGE FIGURE OF HOGAR...



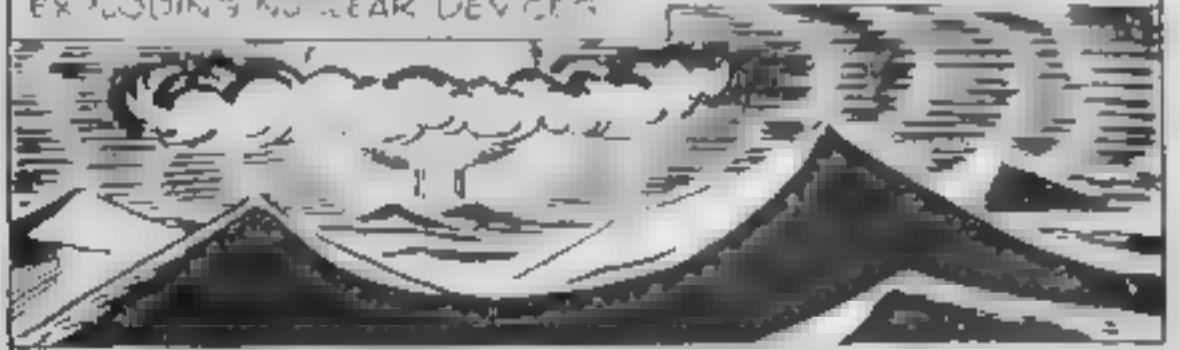
WITH A DRUM BEATING LOUDLY, MANU CLIMBED THE STATUE AND STARTED A FIRE IN ONE OF THE HANDS! AS THE FLAMES ROSE HE TURNED HIS FACE TO THE HEAVENS, IMPLOING, "YOU WHO HAVE CHOSEN ME, HEAR ME NOW..."



THIS DONE, HE TURNED TO THE FACE OF HOGAR AND WITH MAGIC WORDS, BEGAN TO SPEAK. "I WHO HAVE LABORED MIGHTILY TO CARVE THIS GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE GODS NOW BESEECH THE GODS TO HELP ME BREATHE LIFE INTO THIS CREATURE SO THAT ALL MAY KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN!"



UNKNOWN TO MANU, DEVICES OF THE WHITE MEN AND THE FORCES OF NATURE WERE HELPING HIM MAKE HIS DREAM COME TRUE. FOR IN THE VAST DESERT, THE FRENCH WERE EXPLODING NUCLEAR DEVICES.



AS THE RADIO-ACTIVE FALLOUT FROM THIS DEVICE FELL UPON THE VALLEY, THE NATIVE MEN DANCED FRANTICALLY TO THE BEAT OF THE DRUMS! SUDDENLY, A STORM AROSE... AND LIGHTNING DANCED ACROSS THE BLACK SKY...



MANU RAVED ON AND ON! HIS FRENZY WAS AS STRONG AS THE DANCING MEN BELOW! THEN SUDDENLY, LIGHTNING STRUCK THE IDOL... MANU WAS STUNNED BY THE FORCE AND FELL TO THE GROUND...



THEN A STRANGE AND
MONDROUS THING HAPPENED...
THE COMBINED FORCE OF THE
NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE
ATMOSPHERE AND THE
ELECTRICAL CHARGE OF
THE LIGHTNING CREATED A
REACTION WHICH SET THE
STRANGE CELLS THAT
COMPOSED THE BODY OF
HOGAR INTO MOTION! AND
WITH THAT MOTION CAME
LIFE! A LIFE SUCH AS THE
WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN
BEFORE!



HOGAR WAS TURNING THE JUNGLE INTO THE NIGHTMARE WORLD THAT FOREIGNERS OFTEN BELIEVE IT TO BE! WHOLE AREAS OF JUNGLE WERE RAVAGED BY ITS FEET AND SWEEPING ARMS...



ENTIRE VILLAGES BECAME A HOLOCAUST OF FIRE AND SMOKE! ANIMALS STAMPEDED THROUGH THE NIGHT! NOTHING WAS SAFE IF IT STOOD IN THE PATH OF HOGAR...



THE PLANES SENT TO OBSERVE HAD REPORTED THE SIGHT OF HOGAR! BUT WHO WOULD BELIEVE THEM?



HOGAR LEFT DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN HIS WAKE! HE COULD NOT BE STOPPED...



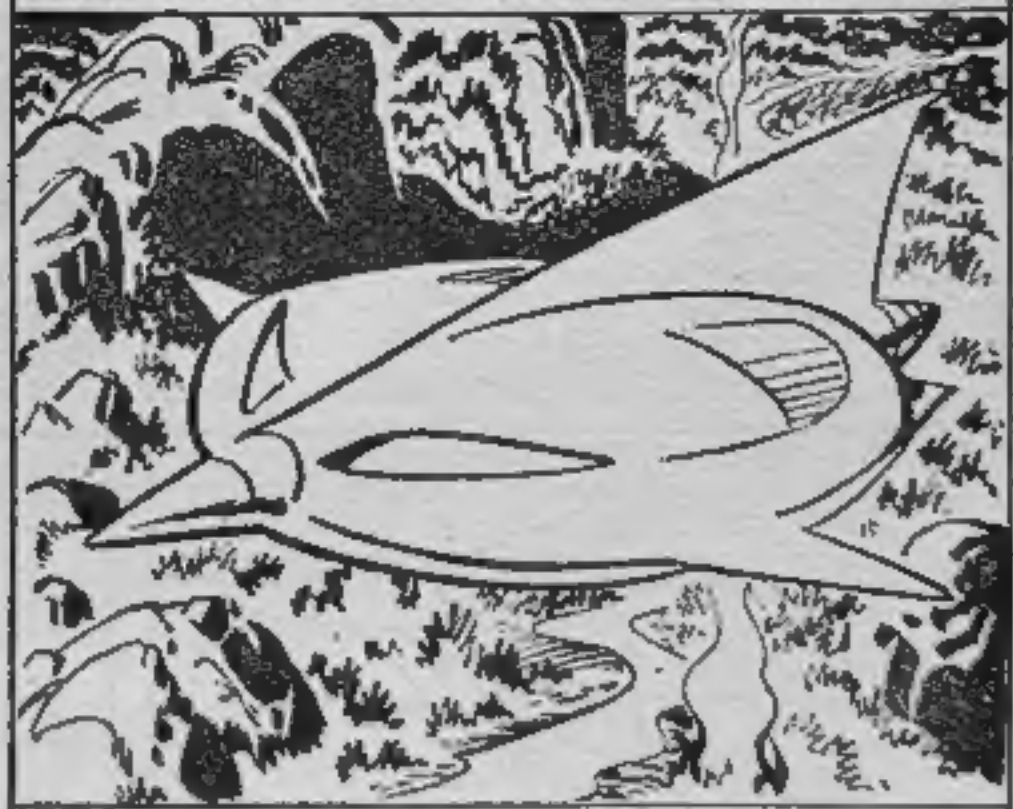
THE MOST MODERN BOMBS AND ARTILLERY WERE NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STOP HOGAR! HE CRUSHED THE PLANES SENT AGAINST HIM AS IF THEY WERE INSECTS...



AND BACK IN THE JUNGLE, MANU LAY DYING! HOGAR HAD SENT HIM CRASHING TO EARTH; HIS BODY WAS SHATTERED BY THE FALL...



HE REALIZED, ALL HIS SINS OF LUST AND GREED! HE PRAYED FOR SOME WAY TO MAKE UP FOR THEM BEFORE HE DIED! FOR SUDDENLY, HE KNEW THAT THE GODS HAD HEARD HIS PRAYERS! A STRANGE STAR APPEARED IN THE SKY ABOVE HIM! IT PAUSED OVER MANU AS HE DIED, AND THEN FOLLOWED THE PATH OF HAVOC THAT HOGAR HAD LEFT BEHIND...



THE 'STAR' CONTAINED STRANGE CREATURES SENT FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE! IT HAD TO DESTROY THE HUGE PIECE OF MATTER WHICH HAD ESCAPED AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD THAT THEY HAD PLACED IT IN...



FOLLOWING THE PATH THAT THE MATTER HAD TAKEN AS A METEORITE, THEY TRACED IT TO EARTH! AND NOW THE ELEMENTS IN THE MATTER WERE LOOSE AND WRECKING THIS STRANGE PRIMITIVE PLANET...



PEOPLE STARED IN AWE AT THE HUGE SHIP AS IT PASSED OVER THEM! THEY FORGOT THE DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY HOGAR AND WONDERED WHAT OR WHO HAD SENT A NEW WEAPON AGAINST THE DESTRUCTIVE THING...



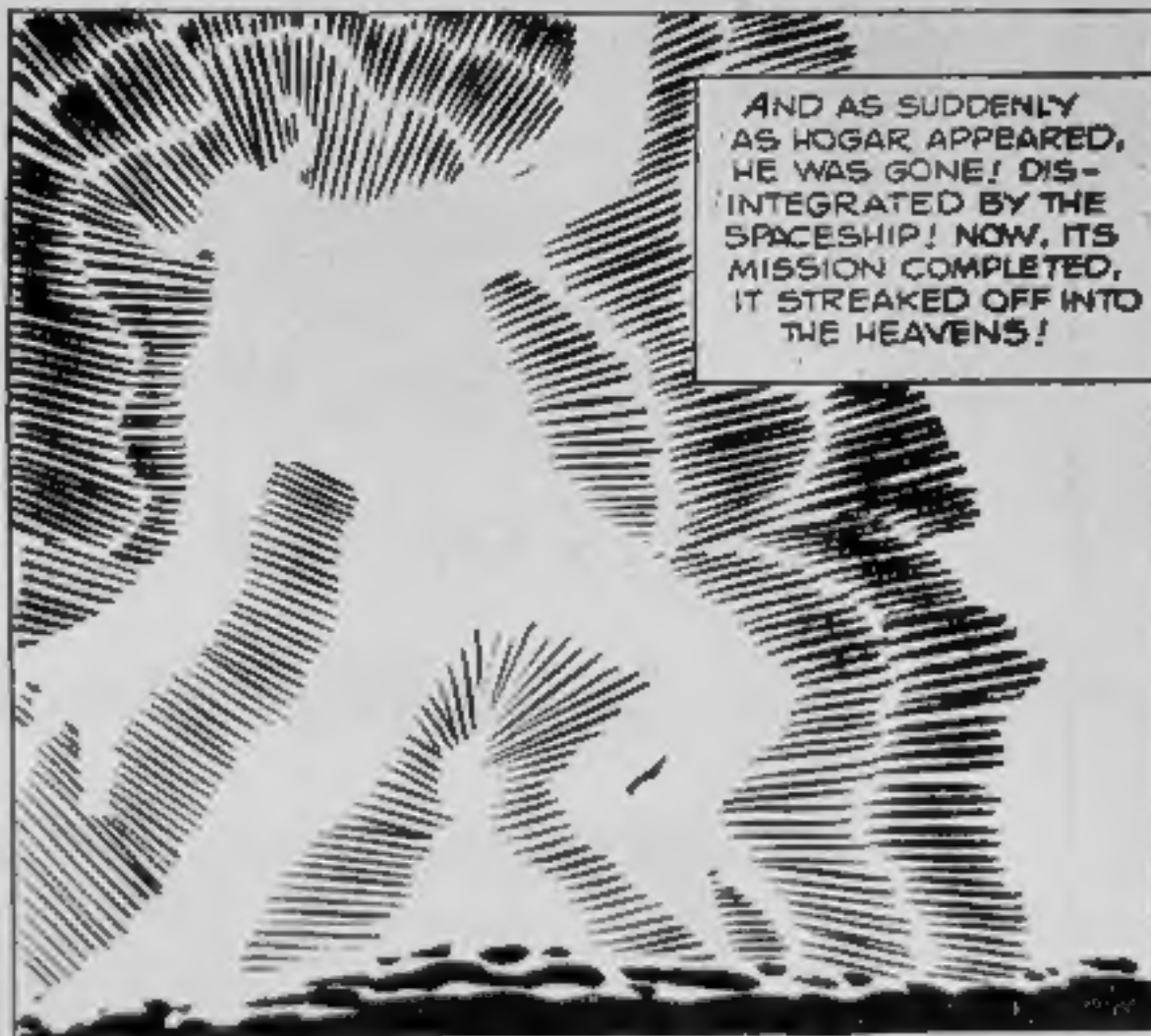
SOMETHING, PERHAPS A VAGUE MEMORY IMBEDDED IN THE HUGE MOBILE MASS OF LIVE MATTER THAT WAS HOGAR CAUSED IT TO TURN IN THE DIRECTION OF THE COMING SPACESHIP...



IT RECOGNIZED THE SHIP AS A THREAT TO ITS EXISTENCE AND SUDDENLY IT RAISED ITS HUGE FIST TO BATTER IT! IT WAS FROZEN IN A FIELD OF FORCE TOO STRONG FOR IT TO OVERCOME...



AND AS SUDDENLY AS HOGAR APPEARED, HE WAS GONE! DIS-INTEGRATED BY THE SPACESHIP! NOW, ITS MISSION COMPLETED, IT STREAKED OFF INTO THE HEAVENS!



THE WORLD TOOK A SIGH OF RELIEF AND BEGAN TO CLEAN UP THE WRECKAGE CAUSED BY HOGAR! AND IN A JUNGLE CLEARING, THE BODY OF A MAN WITH DREAMS OF POWER LAY CRUSHED! BUT THERE WAS A SMILE ON HIS FACE! THE GODS HAD HEARD HIS PRAYER, FOR HELP AND HAD ANSWERED AT LAST!



THE END

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